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STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES
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September 15, 1986

TO: Board of Oil, Gas and Mining

FROM: Lowell P. Braxton, Administrator *LPB*

RE: Summit Minerals #1 (Blackhawk) Mine, INA/043/001, Summit County, Utah

To facilitate understanding of the present status of permitting on this operation, the following background information is offered.

In December 1985 the Board of Oil, Gas and Mining ordered Jack Higgins, Utah Coal, Summit Minerals and Summit Energy, to post a bond for reclamation of post SMCRA disturbances at the above-captioned mine site. The total amount of the bond was to be \$120,300. At this time the Division has received a real estate bond for 52.9 acres purported to be valued at \$4,000 per acre. The Division asked the Utah Department of Transportation to appraise this property, and DOT's appraisal is \$1,000 per acre, for a total value of \$52,900. The Division of Oil, Gas and Mining has advised Summit Minerals that additional collateral or acceptable bond of \$67,400 must be posted in order to conform to the Board's order of posting a \$120,300 reclamation bond for post SMCRA disturbances.

In December 1985 the Board further ordered Jack Higgins, Utah Coal, Summit Minerals and Summit Energy to file a mining and reclamation plan with the Division. In June 1986 the Division received an exploration plan for the extraction of greater than 250 Tons of coal. The Division responded by saying the exploration proposal did not address the parameters outlined by the Board. Nonetheless, this submittal has been reviewed by the Division for completeness of regulations addressing the requirements of a reclamation plan for existing disturbance. A 10-page letter was mailed August 13, 1986 to Summit Minerals listing deficiencies to be corrected preparatory to the Division's conducting a Technical Analysis of reclamation plans for this mine site. The applicant (Summit Minerals) is presently conducting requisite field and office work to correct these deficiencies. This work includes:

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1. Soil sampling (under advisement by the Soil Conservation Service) - Analysis of soil samples is being conducted by Utah State and should be available by late September.
2. Vegetation sampling - The site has been sampled as has a reference area. A consultant to Summit Minerals is writing reports which should be completed to mid-to-late September.
3. Photogrammetric mapping: Area has been paneled and flown. Summit's representatives now have stereo photo coverage. An independent contractor is preparing 1" to 50' topographic base maps with a 2-foot contour interval, covering the disturbed area.
4. Engineering concerns must be addressed after completion of mapping (applicant has selected an engineering consultant).
5. Climatological data: Requisite reports are being formulated by a consultant to Summit.
6. Hydrologic data - Summit's consultant has approached the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining regarding the availability of raw data from the Small Operator Assistance Program (SOAP) run for an adjacent mine. These data have not been deemed complete and releasable by the Division at this time, therefore no data has been released to Summit Minerals, but will be useful in the eventual permitting process. In summary, Summit Minerals is hoping for an early-to-mid October response to concerns outlined in the Division's initial completeness review.

In mid-August 1986 the Division received a Citizen's Complaint regarding improper activities on the mine site. A Division of Oil, Gas and Mining inspector responded, and reported that activities consisted of road and bridge maintenance/repair required to allow vehicular access to the site to support biological, soils and photogrammetric contractor activities. The inspector however, recommended that these activities are within the parameters allowed by the Board's order of December 1985, no violations were issued.

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