



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
White River Resource Area
220 East Market
Meeker, Colorado 81641



In Reply Refer To:

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C-0118326

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C-0119986

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DEC 28 2013

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DEC 26 2013

GRAND JUNCTION FIELD OFFICE
DIVISION OF
RECLAMATION MINING & SAFETY

Natural Soda Inc.
Attention: Bob Warneke
3200 County Rd. 31
Rifle, Colorado 81650

Dear Mr. Warneke:

We have reviewed your November 15, 2013 requests to construct a well pad and drill an additional production well pair, 14H-I and 14H-R, on the constructed well pad. The proposed project is located in Township 1 South, Range 98 West, Section 25, Lot 13, 6th P.M. This project is considered to be a minor modification to the approved "Natural Soda 2010 Mine Plan and Environmental Monitoring Plan" and is approved with the following conditions of approval:

1. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing archaeological sites or for collecting artifacts.
2. If any archaeological materials are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, activity in the vicinity of the discovery will cease, and the BLM WRFO Archaeologist will be notified immediately. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The operator will make every effort to protect the site from further impacts including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage until BLM determines a treatment approach, and the treatment is completed. Unless previously determined in treatment plans or agreements, BLM will evaluate the cultural resources and, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), select the appropriate mitigation option within 48 hours of the discovery. The operator, under guidance of the BLM, will implement the mitigation in a timely manner. The process will be fully documented in reports, site forms, maps, drawings, and photographs. The BLM will forward documentation to the SHPO for review and concurrence.
3. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the operator must notify the AO, by telephone and written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), the operator must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the AO.
4. Any excavations into the underlying native sedimentary stone must be monitored by a permitted paleontologist. The monitoring paleontologist must be present before the start of excavations that may impact bedrock.

5. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for disturbing or collecting vertebrate fossils, collecting large amounts of petrified wood (over 25lbs./day, up to 250lbs./year), or collecting fossils for commercial purposes on public lands.
6. If any paleontological resources are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, the operator or any of his agents must stop work immediately at that site, immediately contact the BLM Paleontology Coordinator, and make every effort to protect the site from further impacts, including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The BLM or designated paleontologist will evaluate the discovery and take action to protect or remove the resource within 10 working days. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue construction through the site, or will be given the choice of either (a) following the Paleontology Coordinator's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (b) following the Paleontology Coordinator's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing construction through the project area.
7. Activities, including construction, drilling etc. will not be permitted from December 1 through April 30 to avoid disruption to big game during the critical winter period.
8. Notify our office at a minimum of 24 hours prior to the commencement of construction, drilling and reclamation activities.
9. All activities shall comply with the approved "Natural Soda 2010 Mine Plan and Environmental Monitoring Plan".

Additional bonding to include the estimated reclamation costs of the well pad and well pair will be required prior to the commencement of construction activities. This additional bonding requirement will be determined in coordination with the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety and sent to you at a future date. You will be also billed by our office for the wood products removed during the construction of the 14H well pad. If there any questions, please contact Paul Daggett Mining Engineer at (970) 878-3819.

Sincerely,



Kent Walter
Field Manager

Enc

cc:

Travis Marshall
Grand Junction Field Office
Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety
101 South 3rd, Suite 301
Grand Junction, CO 81501

Daub & Associates, Inc.
1985½ South Broadway
Grand Junction, CO 81507-9649