

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



In Reply Refer To: LLCON050 3592 COC77086 ROW

Natural Soda LLC. Attention: Kirk Daehling 3200 County Rd. 31 Rifle, Colorado 81650

Dear Mr. Daehling:

DEC 11 2015

RECEIVED

DEC 1 4 2015 GRAND JUNCTION FIELD OFFICE DIVISION OF RECLAMATION MINING & SAFETY

My staff has reviewed Natural Soda's (NS) December 1, 2015 request for the BLM to except the winter timing limitation (December 1 through April 30) for big game severe winter range allowing for the drilling operations of NS's well pairs 15H, 16H, and 17H which are scheduled to commence in February 2016.

An exception to the timing limitation was granted for the 12H production well pair in January of 2012. The 12H production wells are located in a year round drilling study area where Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), in coordination with WPX, evaluated the effects of year round drilling on mule deer within the big game severe winter range. The 15H through 17H well pad is located approximately 600 feet outside of the study area and within the big game severe winter range.

CPW's year round drilling study will be concluding following the 2015-2016 winter period. Once the study is concluded the big game severe winter timing limitations will be in effect throughout NS's well field.

Because the location of 15H through 17H well pad compliments the design of the ongoing CPW mule deer study, an exception to the big game severe winter timing limitation is granted for the drilling of 15H, 16H, and 17H well pairs scheduled to commence in February 2016. This exception does not set precedence for any future exception requests. Future exceptions will likely not be granted and it is strongly recommended scheduling all future well field drilling and associated activities outside of the big game severe winter timing limitation (December 1 through April 30).

If there any questions, please contact Paul Daggett Mining Engineer at (970) 878-3819.

Sincerely, Ar. Walth

Kent Walter Field Manager

cc:

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

Daub & Associates, Inc. 1985¹/₂ South Broadway Grand Junction, CO 81507-9649

and a set of the set

B secondary and the second future was Weight and for the off rescale that weight is further, and BCD - HackSH propagation with each weight and protect would different study and without Constants Parawers. Childley, COLAR Care is practication with VTC pattern and different study and without dation protection of the fact without an history of the constant of the VSM from all values of the dation protection and the patter sectory of the constants. The constant is set invalid any negative fills (cit) with size and the start's reserver.

47 °C or sensitive but ing tradig the conflation of the conflation of the conflation of the country or out discounting counter or grownic and the trig years were construction of the country of the country of the country the north of 500 is were tright.

Program in Treatment's feld in might 1.1 a well-gad unique inter a tras denigg of the ondotter CFW and the first study, an exception to the tray gians severe with a during Hauthfure Is general for the adding reactification and the tradition of which a construction of the general for the set approaches the set of the source for any future vision of the general for the reacting form the track is a standard state for any future vision of the tenter of the distribution for the tente of the set of the set of the set of the state of the set of the set and for the tente of the set associated as a set of the set theory a set of the set

> Figure and experiments many figure from the gap of the figure reaction of the second s Second s Second s Second s Second se

Kerr Would