



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

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COC0118327-01

COC0119986-01

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COC37474

OCT 05 2017

Natural Soda LLC.

Attention: Kirk Daehling

3200 County Rd. 31

Rifle, Colorado 81650

Dear Mr. Daehling:

We have reviewed Natural Soda's (NS) May 26, 2017 request to construct 12H-1R and the 403H production wells along with your June 28, 2017 request to construct subsurface subsidence well 17H-SSMW. The proposed projects are located in Township 1 South, Range 98 West; Sections 25, 26, and 35, 6th P.M. These projects are considered to be a minor modification to the approved Natural Soda mine plan and are approved with the following conditions of approval (COA). Please take special notice of COA Number 7 timing limitations on construction activities and COA Number 9 which corresponds to the installation of the production pipelines for the 403H well pair.

1. All activities shall comply with NS's approved reclamation and Mine Plan.
2. NS 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.
3. 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 NS 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 NS, 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.

4. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the applicant 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.
5. NS 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 or other scientifically-important 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, NS 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. Development activities will be prohibited from January 1 through April 30 to avoid disruption of big game during the critical winter period. Construction and development activities will be permitted from May 1 through December 31.
8. Prior to installation of the production pipelines from the 10H-13H pad to the 403H wells Natural Soda will effectively coordinate with Rio Blanco County and existing rights-of-way (ROW) holders.
9. Notify our office at a minimum of 24 hours prior to the commencement of construction, drilling and reclamation activities.
10. Prior to commencement of operations NS shall submit at a minimum the following.
 - a. For the 17-SSMW
 - i. Survey plat of drilling location
 - ii. Construction layout diagrams
 - iii. Cut and fill diagrams

- b. For the 12H-1R
 - i. Survey plat of drilling location with adjusted latitude and longitude of the submitted June 8, 2017 Proposed 12H-1R Well Location Map
 - ii. Construction layout diagrams
 - iii. Cut and fill diagrams
- c. For the 403H well pair
 - i. Survey Plat of drilling location
 - ii. Construction layout diagrams
 - iii. Cut and fill diagrams
 - iv. Well specification and data sheet along with depths to water bearing and stratigraphic units.

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

Sincerely,



Kent Walter
Field Manager

Enc Well Permits for 17-SSMW, 12H-1R, 403H-I, 403H-R

cc:

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