



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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COC0118326-01

COC0118327-01

COC0119986-01

COC0119986-02

COC0119985-01

COC37474

Natural Soda LLC.

Attention: Kirk Daehling

3200 County Rd. 31

Rifle, Colorado 81650

Dear Mr. Daehling:

Our office has reviewed Natural Soda's (NS) January 15, 2021 request to construct B-Groove groundwater monitoring well BG-11.

The proposed project is located on the 10H-17H-1RE existing well pad in the 6th P.M., Township 1 South, Range 98 West, Section 25, Lot 13. This project is considered to be a minor modification to the approved Natural Soda Mine Plan and is approved with the following conditions of approval (COA). Please note a review of your January 18, 2021 exception request of big game timing restrictions (COA Number 7) for maintenance and drilling operations has been reviewed and a one time exception is granted.

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 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. If any paleontological resources are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, the applicant must immediately contact the appropriate BLM representative.
6. Any excavations into the underlying native bedrock must be monitored by a permitted paleontologist. The monitoring paleontologist must be present before the start of excavations that may impact the underlying rock.
7. Development activities will be prohibited from December 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 November 30.
8. Notify our office a minimum of 24 hours prior to the commencement of construction, drilling and reclamation activities.

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

Sincerely,

Kent E. Walter
Field Manager

cc:

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

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