

1985 ½ SOUTH BROADWAY GRAND JUNCTION, CO 81507-9649 (970) 254-1224 FAX (970) 242-8438 email: gjdaub@daubandassociates.com www.daubandassociates.com

February 8, 2023

Mrs. Amy Yeldell Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety Room 215, c/o: Minerals Division 1001 E 62nd Ave. Denver, CO 80216

Re: Natural Soda LLC Nahcolite Project Permit No. M-1983-194 Technical Revision (TR-50) Adequacy Review Response

Dear Amy:

Natural Soda LLC (NS) hereby submits their response to the TR-50 Adequacy Review. Below are the original questions posed by the DRMS with D&A/NS responses in blue.

1. Please specify the plugging and abandonment measures to be utilized for the proposed wells 18H-1V and 18H-IR-W.

D&A: The wells will be P&A as follows: 18H-IR-W: A CIBP will be set at 1,972 feet MD GL, the 9.625-inch casing will be filled to surface with a minimum of 152.5 bbls (856 gallons) of neat cement. 18H-1V: A CIBP will be set at 2,277.5 feet MD GL, the 9.625-inch casing will be filled to surface with a minimum of 176 bbls (989 gallons) of neat cement.

- 2. The Well location and proposed utilities (map 2) depicts additional features not discussed in the narrative portion of this TR. Are the following additional features being requested at this time?
 - a. New well pads for 18H-IR-E and alternate proposed 18/20-IR-E. D&A: The 18H-IR-E and Alternative Proposed 18/20-IR-E Pad locations are conceptual and not part of the TR-50 proposal.
 - b. Three additional surface subsidence monitoring wells; SSM18, SSM19 and SSM20. Note the SSM18 is also depicted on the Locations (map 1). D&A: These are SSMs, Surface Subsidence <u>Monuments</u>, they are not wells. These are surface monuments placed and surveyed as the mining area expands to monitor the ground surface. There is no measurable (de minimis) disturbance associated with SSM installations. The subsurface subsidence monitoring wells are abbreviated as SSMW.

- 3. The Well location and proposed utilities (map 2) states "Remove and Replace (2) 8" production pipelines". Are the removal and replacement pipelines identical lengths and material types and thus not a factor for bonding purposes? D&A: They are not identical. The two existing 8" pipelines to the DVPW pad will be removed and replaced in part with one 8" and one 6" pipeline. Please see the attached map.
- 4. Provide an updated table tracking the amount of pipeline by size located on site. Specifically address the following changes;
 - a. What is the total length of additional pipe by size to be added for access to the 18H-1V well/pad?
 - D&A: 1,951' of 8" and 1,968 feet of 6" pipeline
 - b. What is the total length of additional pipe by size to be added for access to the 18H-IR-W well?

D&A: 402' of 8" and 396' of 6" pipe

- c. Has any pipe been removed in conjunction with recently abandoned wells? D&A: Yes, approximately two sections of 8" (897' and 915') pipe from the proposed pipeline intersection to the DVPW, and approximately 1,165' of one line of 6" pipe from the DVPW pad to the 14H-1V will be removed.
- 5. Will the construction of the new pipeline road require any significant contouring? If so please provide the details for construction as well as for removal. Historically the Division has only bonded for ripping, topsoil and reveg of roads. D&A: No, please see the attached "Well pad & Road Acreage Analysis" for the road acreage.
- 6. Are the disturbed acreages for proposed well pad access roads accounted for under the "proposed area of disturbance" acreages listed on each pad map? D&A: Yes, see the attached "Well pad & Road Acreage Analysis".
- 7. Please provide an updated "Well pad & Road Acreage Analysis" spreadsheet which includes the TR-50 proposed changes highlighted. Include both the addition of new well pads and the change of status pad for reclaimed areas. D&A: Please see the attached "Well pad & Road Acreage Analysis".
- 8. For bonding the Division is providing a list of all open wells which will require abandonment. Please review this table to ensure that all recent changes (abandoned wells) have been accounted for and that the information presented is accurate. D&A: Please see table of revisions below.

Circes Order	Borehole Description	Sealing/Item Method	Diam (in)	CIRCE S Diam (in) ¹	Length (ft) ²	BP Size (in)	BP Depth (ft)	Comment
4	90-3	Portland cement grout	4	4	1627	N/A	N/A	
17	DVPW-1(B)	Portland cement grout	6.4	8	1900	6	1900	Delete entry: P&A'd in 2022 with DVPW-1(A)
40	14H-1V	Portland cement grout	8.9	10	1945	8	1945	CIBP installed September 2022
47	BG-11	Portland cement grout	4	4	1677	N/A	N/A	
48	PA-1	Portland cement grout	4	4	490	N/A	N/A	
49	AG-2	Portland cement grout	4	4	1230	N/A	N/A	
50	BG-10	Portland cement grout	4	4	1420	N/A	N/A	
51	17H-E SSMW	Portland cement grout	4	4	1828	N/A	N/A	
52	18H-1V	Portland cement grout	8.9	10	1972	8	1972	Proposed TR-50
53	18H-IR-W	Portland cement grout	8.9	10	2278	8	2278	Proposed TR-50

Cells requiring edits in red.

Also included with this response is the Well pad & Road Acreage Analysis spreadsheet which was sent to you in excel format via email.

Should you have any questions or comments, please contact me at (970) 254-1224 or (970) 216-1010 (c), or Kirk Daehling at (970) 456-1268.

Regards,

. J. Dank

Gerald J. Daub, PG, CPG President Daub & Associates, Inc.

Cc: Kirk Daehling Business Director Natural Soda LLC



Legend



WELL PADS									ROADS												
DISTURBED		UNDERGOING INTERIM RECLAMATION			UNDERGOING FINAL RECLAMATION			SUCCESSFULLY RECLAIMED (meets ROD goals)			DISTURBED			UNDERGOING INTERIM RECLAMATION		UNDERGOING FINAL RECLAMATION			SUCCESSFULLY RECLAIMED		
Description	Area, ft ²		Description		Acres	Description	Area, ft ²			Area, ft ²		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Area, ft ²			Area, ft ² Acre		Area, ft ²		Description	Area, ft ² Ac
5H	98,187		2M-TDR, 3M-TDR	5,554	0.128		28,725		1A-4HI	29,896		RD A	23,690			,	24 RD A rdp	928		RD E rdp	10,649 0.
7H	76,787			57,885	1.329		26,321		1A-5HR	68,443			45,832			,	38 RD G rdp	1,050		RD P rdp	4,607 0.
7H-1V (see 15H-1V)	0	0.000		14,961	0.343		28,880		3A-5V	64,843		RD C	18,711				12 RD H-C rdp	10,103		RD Q rdp	30,284 0.
10H-13H	290,596			38,490	0.884		29,639		4-2V & 93-3V	131,882		RD E	778				35 RD U-T rdp	27,602		RD H rdp	11,542 0.
14H	98,457	2.260	90-2	18,509	0.425	U	25,075	0.576	5H-1V	35,862	0.823	RD F	900	0.021	RD I rdp (DS-8)	1,476 0.0	34	_	0.000	RD N-C rdp	10,196 0.
88-1V	19,714	0.453	90-5H	8,791	0.202	MW-1, PW-1, PW-2	24,278	0.557	91-1V	8,746	0.201	RD K	1,808	0.042	RD J	578 0.0	13		0.000	WSW-3 pipeline	21,521 0.
15H-17H	207,133	4.755	BG-4	20,343	0.467	IRI-3	6,872	0.158	A	24,345	0.559	RD 14H	421		RD M rdp (DS-9)	7,799 0.1	79		0.000	WSW-4 pipeline	53,675 1.
12H-13H-IR (1-3A, 2B-3C)	74,053	1.700	BG-6	25,439	0.584	4A-5M, 4A-6V	26,122	0.600	т	31,010	0.712	RD 15-17	13,252	0.304	RD M-K rdp (DS- 9/BG-7)	8,651 0.1	99		0.000		
14H-1V 2019	77,972	1.790	DS-3	6,524	0.150	4-3H(V)	39,927	0.917	Έ	25,379	0.583	RD 15H-SSMW	1,464	0.034	RD O rdp	11,436 0.2	63		0.000		
16-17H-IR-E	126,324	2.900	DS-6	25,160	0.578	93-2M	12,505	0.287	P	24,581	0.564	16/17H-1V	3,600	0.083	RD DS-6 rdp	453 0.0	10		0.000		0.
15H-1V (subsumes 7H- 1V)	113,256	2.600	DS-7, 2A-2V	38,045	0.873	93-4H&91-2H	88,994	2.043	Q	24,786	0.569	DS-10	1,300	0.030	RD WSW-3 rdp	2,405 0.0	55		0.000		0.
16-17H-1V (162,900 - 28,600 of existing 1A- 4HI pad)	243,946	5.600	DS-10	52,708	1.210	BG-5	38,668	0.888	R	26,013	0.597	Upgradient Monitor Pad Rd	840	0.019	RD WSW-4 rdp	344 0.0)8		0.000		0.
18H-1V (Proposed)	128,942	2.960	I (DS-8)	26,732	0.614	BG-8 (DS-4)	45,021	1.034	94-1M	56,433	1.296	18H-1V (proposed)	2,460	0.060	RD 17H-SSMW	4,354 0.1	00		0.000		0.
18H-IR-W (Proposed)	93,215	2.140	K (BG-7)	27,870	0.640	BG-9 (DS-5)	29,973	0.688	3 D	27,853	0.639	18H-IR-W (temp access + western access; proposed)	1,665	0.040		0.0	00		0.000		0.
17H-E SSMW	27,840	0.639	M (DS-9)	29,224	0.671			0.000	IRI-2	8,251	0.190	18H-1V pipeline rd (proposed)	21,040	0.480		0.0	00		0.000		0.
			WSW-2	30,389				0.000)		0.000			0.000		0.0	00		0.000		0.
		0.000	WSW-3	32,647	0.749			0.000)		0.000			0.000		0.0	00		0.000		0.
		0.000	WSW-4	32,789	0.753			0.000			0.000			0.000		0.0	00		0.000		0.
		0.000	WSW-5 (O-GMW-A)	28,854	0.662			0.000			0.000			0.000		0.0	00	+ +	0.000		0.
			8H/3A-4H	88,287	2.027			0.000			0.000			0.000		0.0			0.000		0.
			15H-SSMW	24,594	0.565			0.000			0.000			0.000		0.0			0.000		0.
		0.000	17H-SSMW Pad	12,791	0.294			0.000)		0.000			0.000		0.0	00	_ ↓ ↓	0.000		0.
		0.000	Upgradient Monitor Pad	38,495	0.884			0.000			0.000			0.000		0.0			0.000		0.
		0.000		6,659	0.153			0.000)		0.000			0.000		0.0	00		0.000		0.
TOTAL	1,676,422	38	TOTAL	691,740	16	TOTAL	451,000	10	TOTAL	588.323	14	TOTAL	137.761	3	TOTAL	54,404	1 TOTAL	39.683	1	TOTAL	142,474

TOTAL Pad & Road ACREAGE	
Pad & Road DISTURBED	42
INTERIM RECLAMATION	17
FINAL RECLAMATION	11
SUCCESSFULLY RECLAIMED	14
Pad & Road Check sum (ac)	84