



STATE OF ALABAMA
SURFACE MINING COMMISSION

Page 1 of _____

Permit Number:P- 3965 -63-17-S

License Number:L- 558

PERMIT TO ENGAGE IN SURFACE COAL MINING OPERATIONS

Pursuant to **The Alabama Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1981**, as amended, **ALA. Code Section 9-16-70 et. seq. (1975)** a permit to engage in Surface Coal Mining Operations in the State of Alabama is hereby granted to:

NATIONAL COAL OF ALABAMA INC
1810 BIRMINGHAM AVE SUITE 101
JASPER AL 35501
(Weller Mine)

Such operations are restricted to 527* acres as defined on the permit map and located in: **(see condition #3)**

(SEE ATTACHED LEGAL DESCRIPTION)

This permit is subject to suspension or revocation upon violation of any of the following conditions:

1. The permittee shall conduct Surface Coal Mining and Reclamation Operations in accordance with the plans, provisions and schedules in the permit application.
2. The permittee shall conduct operations in a manner to prevent damage or harm to the environment and public health and safety and shall notify ASMC and the public in accordance with ASMC Rule 880-X-8K-16 of any condition which threatens the environment or public health and safety.

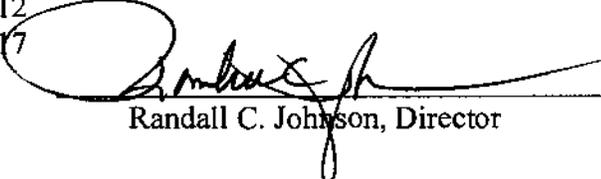
Legal Description for P-3965-63-17-S

NW/NW, SW/NW and NE/NW of Section 3, NE/SE, NE/NE, SE/NW, SW/NE, SE/NE, NW/SW, NE/SW, NW/SE, SW/SW, and SE/SW of Section 4, Township 20 South, Range 6 West, SE/SE of Section 33, SE/NW, SW/NE, NW/SW, NE/SW, NW/SE, SW/SW, SE/SW and SW/SE of Section 34, Township 19 South, Range 6 West, Jefferson County, Alabama, NE/SE and SE/SE of Section 5, NW/NE, NE/NE, and SE/NE of Section 8, NW/NW and NE/NW of Section 9, Township 20 South, Range 6 West, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama.

CONDITIONS TO BE PLACED ON PERMIT P-3965-63-17-S

3. Surface coal mining operations are restricted to those areas for which sufficient bond has been posted with ASMC. On the date of issuance of this permit bond was posted only for increments(s) #6 consisting of 1 acre as defined on the permit map.
4. No mining disturbance is to occur on any part of the permit on which legal "right of entry" has not been obtained. When such rights are "pending" the applicant shall submit acceptable evidence, to the Director, that such rights have been obtained according to ASMC Regulation 880-X-8D-.07.
5. No disturbance is to occur on any properties on which land use comments from legal owners of record are "pending" prior to the applicant providing acceptable comments.
6. No disturbance is to occur in the 300' setback area to any occupied dwelling prior to the applicant providing acceptable evidence to ASMC of its having secured a waiver of each subject area signed by the owner of the dwelling.
7. No mining disturbance shall occur within the 100' setback of any public road or the relocation of any public road prior to the applicant providing acceptable evidence, to the Director, of its having secured approval for a waiver from the appropriate jurisdictional authority and specific written waiver from ASMC.
8. The permittee shall notify the ASMC and seek consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service if:
 - a. The permit is modified in any way that causes an effect on species or Critical Habitat listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.
 - b. New information reveals the operation may affect Federally protected species or designated Critical Habitat in a manner or extent not previously considered, or Species Act that may be affected by the operation.
 - c. A new species is listed or Critical Habitat is designated under the Endangered Species Act that may be affected by the operation.
9. The permittee shall contact the ASMC and consult with the Alabama Historic Preservation Officer if the permit is modified or if previously unknown archaeological or historic resources are discovered on the permit area. Upon discovery of previously unknown artifacts or archaeological features the permittee shall cease operations until the Alabama Historic Preservation Officer approves resumption of operations.
10. The permittee shall provide a Bill of Sale for 0.21 wetland credits from Big Sandy Mitigation Bank prior to bonding and mining in a mining increment.

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 4, 2012
DATE ISSUED: December 4, 2012
EXPIRATION DATE: December 3, 2017


Randall C. Johnson, Director

/kb

cc: I & E & Permit File

FINDINGS

PERMIT NO.: P-3965-63-17-S

The ASMC, acting by and through its Director, hereby finds, on the basis of information set forth in the application or from information otherwise available, that –

1. The permit application is complete and accurate and the applicant has complied with all requirements of the Act and the regulatory program.
2. The applicant has demonstrated that reclamation as required by the Act and the regulatory program can be accomplished under the reclamation plan contained in the permit application.
3. The proposed permit area is:
 - (a) Not within an area under study or administrative proceedings under a petition, filed pursuant to Chapter 880-X-7 to have an area designated as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations;
 - (b) Not within an area designated a unsuitable for mining pursuant to Chapter 880-X-7 or subject to the prohibitions or limitations of Section 880-X-7B-.06 and Section 880-X-7B-.07 of this chapter; or
4. For mining operations where the private mineral estate to be mined has been severed from the private surface estate, the applicant has submitted to the Regulatory Authority the documentation required under Section 880-X-8D-.07 and Section 880-X-8G-.07 of this chapter.
5. The Regulatory Authority has made an assessment of the probable cumulative impacts of all anticipated coal mining on the hydrologic balance in the cumulative impact area and has determined that the proposed operation has been designed to prevent material damage to the hydrologic balance outside the permit area.
6. The applicant has demonstrated that any existing structure will comply with Section 880-X-2B-.01, and the applicable performance standards of Chapter 3 or 10.
7. The applicant has paid all reclamation fees from previous and existing operations as required by 30 C.F.R., Subchapter R.

8. The applicant has satisfied the applicable requirements of Subchapter 880-X-8J.
9. The applicant has, if applicable, satisfied the requirements for approval of a long-term, intensive agricultural, postmining land use, in accordance with the requirements of 880-X-10C-.58(4) and 880-X-10D.52(4).
10. The operation will not affect the continued existence of endangered or threatened species, or result in destruction or adverse modification of their critical habitat, as determined under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).
11. The Regulatory Authority has taken into account the effect of the proposed permitting action on properties listed or eligible for listing on the national Register of Historic Places. This finding is supported in part by inclusion of appropriate permit conditions or changes in the operation plan protecting historic resources, or a documented decision that the Regulatory Authority has determined that no additional protection measures are necessary.
12. For a proposed re-mining operation where the applicant intends to reclaim in accordance with the requirements of Section 880-X-10C-.56 or 880-X-10D-.49, the site of the operation is a previously mined area as defined in Section 880-X-2A-.06.
13. Surface coal mining and reclamation operations will not adversely affect a cemetery.
14. After application approval but prior to issue of permit, ASMC reconsidered its approval, based on the compliance review required by Section 880-X-8K-.10(2)(a) in light of any new information submitted under 880-X-8D-.05(8).
15. The applicant has submitted the performance bond or other equivalent guarantee required under Chapter 880-X-9 of the ASMC Rules prior to the issuance of the permit.
16. For mining operations where a waiver is granted from the 100' setback from a public road according to 880-X-7B-.07, the interests of the public and affected landowners have been protected

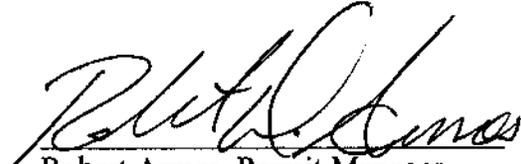
17. The Regulatory Authority has taken into account the effect of the proposed permitting action on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The University of Alabama-Office of Archaeological Research (OAR) conducted a phase I cultural resource survey for 899 acres between September 26- October 19, 2011, OAR Project Number: 11-206. One archeological site were identified, documented and added to the Alabama State Site File (ASSF), site 1Je880. However the site is ineligible for listing to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). In a letter dated October 25, 2011 it is the opinion of OAR that the proposed project will have no effect on any significant cultural resources. Based on the cultural resource assessment conducted by the OAR, the State Historical Preservation Office determined that the proposed project would have no adverse effect on cultural resources eligible for or listed on the NRHP. And therefore, concurs with the proposed project activities in letters dated December 12, 2011 and March 5, 2012. This finding is supported in part by inclusion of appropriate permit conditions or changes in the operation plan protecting historic resources, or a documented decision that the Regulatory Authority has determined that no additional protection measures are necessary. Concerns for unknown resources, which might be discovered during mining, have been made conditions of the permit.
18. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), in comments dated January 23, 2012, stated that no federally listed species/habitats occur with in the project area, based on habitat study conducted by McGehee Engineering in October-December 2011. The study stated that no evidence was found or observed for the presence or possible presence of listed species in the project area. In a letter September 26, 2011 the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) determined that the closest sensitive species occurs approximately 6.5 miles from the subject site. In a letter dated, May 17, 2012 the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) authorize the activities by Permit Number: SAM-2012-00040-CMS. The project will impact 4,401 linear feet (LF) of ephemeral streams (0.15 acre), 2,630 LF of intermittent stream (0.19 acre), 4.22 acres of wetlands and 2.38 acres of open water impoundments. The applicant shall purchase 0.21 wetland credits (0.15 credits X 1.11 mitigation factor) from Big Sandy Mitigation Bank ephemeral stream mitigation. To mitigate for the intermittent stream impacts, the applicant shall implement the mitigation plan as submitted in the PCN dated April 26, 2012. The applicant shall generate no less than 9,757.6 stream credits. To mitigate for the wetland impacts, the applicant will create 3.5 acres of wetlands on site in accordance with the mitigation plan. The ASMC finds that the proposed operation will not jeopardize the continued existence of endangered or threatened species or critical habitat thereof.

19. The proposed permit area is:

- (a) Not within an area under study or administrative proceedings under a petition, filed pursuant to Chapter 880-X-7 to have an area designated as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations;
- (b) Not within an area designated as unsuitable for mining pursuant to Chapter 880-X-7 or subject to the prohibitions or limitations of Section 880-X-7B-.06 and Section 880-X-7B-.07 of this chapter.

BASED ON THESE FINDINGS, I RECOMMEND THAT THIS PERMIT BE ISSUED.

DATE: December 4, 2012


Robert Armes, Permit Manager

/kb

cc: I & E
Permit File