



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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June 22, 1990

TO: Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor  
FROM: Lynn Kunzler, Senior Reclamation Biologist  
RE: Technical Analysis, Valley Camp of Utah, Inc., Belina Complex,  
ACT/007/001, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

Summary:

A technical Analysis of Valley Camp's plan (received March 23, 1990) has been completed. Contained herein is the write-up for biology and land use.

Analysis:

R614-301-300. Biology

Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

Vegetation/Revegetation:

The MRP contains vegetation information in Chapter 3 and in appendix 3. Vegetation resources impacted by the mine include disturbances to the spruce/fir, grass/forb/elderberry, aspen, riparian and sagebrush vegetation communities. The operator has established reference areas in the grass/forb/elderberry, aspen and sagebrush types for use as revegetation success standards.

Fish and Wildlife:

The MRP contains the results of adequate wildlife studies for the mine site and adjacent areas in chapter 3 and appendix 3. The mine site has potential habitat for approximately 364 species of wildlife, including 84 mammals, 241 birds, 6 amphibians, 14 fishes and 19 reptiles. Of key interest were moose, elk, deer and raptor species. The mine site is considered high priority summer range for the big game species and riparian areas are considered critical habitat for all species of wildlife.

## Compliance

Revegetation of the area will not necessarily reestablish the premine vegeation communities. However, the selected reference areas will be used for all disturbed areas as follows:

Aspen - north facing slopes at the Belina site  
Grass/forb/elderberry - south facing slopes at the Belina site  
Sagebrush - Valcam site

While the reference areas were not sampled for cover as per the Division's vegetation information guidelines, the operator has committed to collect adequate cover data from the reference areas in 1992, at which time the current testplots will be sampled and compared with the reference areas.

The operator has provided adequate plans for revegetating all disturbed sites with species that are adapted to the site and are of utility to the proposed postmining land use. In 1987, the operator initiated revegetation test plots at Belina and Valcam to demonstrate that the proposed reclamation plan is feasible, including proposed seed mixes, methods of application and mulching and soil materials and handling.

The operator has proposed adequate wildlife mitigation (page 67-68) for impacts to wildlife resources, including plans to restore the limited riparian habitat at the end of mining.

Several items were identified during the technical deficiency review that need to be addressed to resolve some confusion and generally 'clean up' the plan. The operator still needs to resolve all comments listed under R614-301-300. BIOLOGY. DARON'S STIPULATION addresses these concerns. After DARON'S STIPULATION is resolved, the operator will be in compliance with this section.

## Stipulations

### DARON'S STIPULATION

#### R614-301-400. Land Use

#### Existing Environment and Applicant's Proposal

The MRP contains landuse information and plans in chapter 4 and apendix 4. The premining land use of the site is grazing and wildlife habitat. Historically, there were several coal mines in the area as well. The MRP documents the zoning classification for both Emery and Carbon Counties as being mining and grazing.

## Compliance

The operator intends to return the disturbed area to its premining uses. The revegetation plan has been developed and species were selected based on their utility for grazing and wildlife habitat.

Several items were identified during the technical deficiency review that need to be addressed to resolve some confusion and generally 'clean up' the plan. The operator still needs to resolve all comments listed under R614-301-400. LAND USE. DARON'S STIPULATION addresses these concerns. After DARON'S STIPULATION is resolved, the operator will be in compliance with this section.

## Stipulations

DARON'S STIPULATION

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