



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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April 26, 2000

TO: Pete Hess, Reclamation Specialist *sm*

FROM: Paul Baker, Reclamation Biologist *MB*

RE: Substitute Topsoil, Lodestar Energy Inc., White Oak Mine, ACT/007/001, Internal File

On April 19, 2000, I spoke with John Walters of Lodestar about whether it would be acceptable to use some soil material being stored at the mine to reclaim a sinkhole and a gully between two mine pads. I understand this soil has been gathered from material that has sloughed from highwalls and cuts at the mine and is primarily composed of subsoil.

The White Oak Mine was built before there were requirements for topsoil salvage, so there is only one small pile of stockpiled topsoil on the entire site. Most of the growth medium to be used for reclamation will be substitute topsoil or, essentially, spoil generated in grading the mine site. Therefore, subsoils sloughing from the highwalls and cuts would be the same as the soil to be used for reclamation.

I would be concerned and ask for soil tests if it appeared a major part of the soil was derived from shale or if it was contaminated by coal. Since I have not seen the material, I cannot personally make this judgment, but Mr. Walters told me the material does not fit these categories. If it appears the soil material is within one of these categories, it should be tested according to the soil guidelines. Otherwise, testing should not be necessary.

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