



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

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May 10, 2000

TO: Internal File

FROM: Paul Baker, Project Lead, Reclamation Biologist *MBB*

RE: Interim Seed Mix, Lodestar Energy, Inc, White Oak Mine, ACT/007/001-AM00C, Internal File

SUMMARY:

The mining and reclamation plan for the White Oak Mine does not have a plan for interim vegetation establishment. The proposed amendment is intended to correct this problem.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

OPERATION PLAN

INTERIM REVEGETATION

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-331

Analysis:

The applicant has proposed to include a seed mix for temporary revegetation of disturbed areas. The species in this mix are all native (assuming Kentucky bluegrass is native), and all but one are rhizomatous. They are adapted to the site and should provide good erosion control.

The application says the seed may be covered by raking, mulched with straw, or left on the bare surface awaiting natural cover, such as soil slumping or frost heave. While the Division can approve these methods for interim revegetation, leaving seed on

TECHNICAL MEMO

the surface is not recommended. As far as possible, the applicant should rake the seed or apply mulch.

The performance standards require that the applicant use the best technology currently available to prevent additional contributions of suspended solids to streamflow. R645-301-331 also requires the applicant to minimize surface erosion through prompt establishment and maintenance of vegetation on disturbed areas. Any areas not being used for operations should be vegetated as well as possible to minimize erosion.

Findings:

Information provided in the application is adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The application can be approved, but the Division strongly recommends against seeding on bare areas with no raking or mulch. The regulations do not appear to support a requirement for raking or mulching for interim vegetation establishment; however, the applicant *must* minimize erosion through prompt establishment and maintenance of vegetation on disturbed areas.

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