



Lodestar Energy, Inc.
Mountain Operations
White Oak, Horizon, and Grand Valley Mines
HCR35 Box 370
Helper, Utah 84526

September 11, 2002

Ms. Priscilla Burton
Utah Coal Program
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

SUBJECT: Permit - C/007/001 White Oak Mines
Updated Whisky Creek Mine Projections

Dear Ms. Burton:

Lodestar Energy, Inc. is respectfully providing two (2) copies of the report from Dan Larsen -Soil Scientist with EIS. Mr. Larsen observed top soil removal at our Whisky Creek Mine. He talked with the equipment operators and observed the technique that was used to remove the top soil. Mr. Larsen was on site six days. This report is provided for informational purposes per your request through Mr. Pete Hess - DOGM site inspector.

If there are any questions, please feel free to call me at (435)448-9454 or 9455.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David B. Miller".

David B. Miller
Business Manager

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SEP 13 2002

DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS AND MINING



ENVIRONMENTAL INDUSTRIAL SERVICES

435-472-3814 • 800-641-2927 • FAX 435-472-8780 • elsec@sisna.com • 31 NORTH MAIN STREET HELPER, UTAH 84526

August 16, 2002

David Miller
Lodestar Energy, Inc.
HC 35 Box 370
Helper, Utah 84526

RE: Whiskey Creek Mine Topsoil Salvage

Dear Dave:

This is to document that I observed the topsoil salvage operations at the Whiskey Creek mine during the period of July 16 to July 29, 2002. At my last visit to the project, the topsoil salvage had not been completed but was being conducted in an acceptable manner with a good understanding of identifying the suitable topsoil and separating it from the underlying subsoils. The subsoils commonly have a yellowish-brown color and can be readily distinguished from the darker colored surface soils.

Thickness of topsoil has ranged from about 14 to over 30 inches. Also contributing to the volume of material salvaged are the organic materials above the mineral soil, the bulk factor, and slope factor. These factors result in higher volumes of salvaged material than just considering mineral soil thickness and horizontal area.

Attached are some photographs showing the mine site and some of the soil salvage procedures.

If you have questions or need further assistance on this project, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Daniel M. Larsen
Soil Scientist, EIS

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Whiskey Creek Mine Topsoil Salvage



Photo WCM-SI

An overview of the Whiskey Creek Mine from the site being cleared on the north side (south-facing slope) looking southwest. About half of the cleared area on the north-facing slope has had topsoil salvaged.
(07/24/02)

Whiskey Creek Mine Topsoil Salvage



Photo WCM-S2
Removal of topsoil on the north facing slope.
(07/16/02)



Photo WCM-S3
Yellowish-brown subsoil exposed during topsoil salvage. Some mixing of subsoil material with the topsoil occurs when removing as much topsoil as possible.

Whiskey Creek Mine Topsoil Salvage



Photo WCM-S4

A view showing the south-facing slope and piling of topsoil.



Photo WCM-S5

Subsoil Exposed on the south-facing slope is yellowish-brown and cobbly at this site. About 30 inches of topsoil has been removed and piled.

Whiskey Creek Mine Topsoil Salvage



Photo WCM-S6

Topsoil being loaded and hauled to the topsoil storage pile at the tippie site.



Photo WCM-S7

Topsoil from the north-facing slope is being stored near the tippie. The foreground shows topsoil being removed and piled on the south-facing slope.

(07/24/02)