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

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OK

November 27, 2002

TO: Internal File

THRU: Daron R. Haddock, Permit Supervisor *DRH*

FROM: *WB* Priscilla W. Burton, Environmental Scientist III/Soils

RE: Technical Field Visit, Topsoil Salvage, Lodestar Energy Inc., White Oak Mine/Whiskey Creek Surface Mine, C/007/001

Other Attendees: Division of Oil, Gas & Mining: Pete Hess, Engineer/Inspector; Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor; Dana Dean, Professional Engineer/Hydrologist

Lodestar Energy Inc: Mark Wayment, Mine Manager; Carol Levanger, Environmental Technician; Shane Hansen, Mine Superintendent.

Date & Time: November 26, 2002, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

PURPOSE:

To verify salvage and protection of topsoil at the Whiskey Creek Surface Mine.

OBSERVATIONS:

Based on truckload records, approximately 5,400 cu yds of topsoil was transferred from Pits #12, 14, 16, and 19 to the Sediment Pond 004A Topsoil Stockpile location (see Whiskey Creek Surface Mine Surface Facilities Map R645-301-521.150 for storage locations). The sediment pond topsoil pile will be seeded after roughening the access road to the pile. This topsoil pile was covered with about six inches to a foot of snow at the time of the inspection.

TECHNICAL FIELD VISIT

Salvaged topsoil will be temporarily stored on the slopes of Pits 25 and 26 during the winter months, as Mr. Hansen feels it is unsafe to collect the material with ice and snow on the surface. Mr. Hansen will push the topsoil into a pile and shore up the toe of the topsoil above the access road with either a berm or a silt fence to protect the soil from erosion during the spring thaw.

Blasting will occur in pits adjacent to the temporary topsoil storage area, but the frozen topsoil should be safe until it can be safely moved in the spring.

A berm has been formed approximately half way down the northeast-facing slope of the topsoil pile on the coal storage pad and a silt fence has been installed at the base of the same slope. The coal storage pad topsoil pile was reshaped and seeded last week.

No further topsoil stripping activity is planned during the winter months. Enough area has been cleared to provide 7 – 9 months of working area on both the northeastern pits and southeastern pits.

According to Mr. Wayment, approximately 170,000 cu yds of spoil is stockpiled on the site as of October and probably an additional 30 – 40,000 cubic yards had been placed on the pile during November. Month-end calculations would be available for review soon.

Approximately 200,000 tons of coal have been mined from the surface mine. There is a 4:1 stripping ratio.

Photographs from this field visit can be found on the in the images folder for the mine site.

RECOMMENDATIONS/CONCLUSIONS:

The Division is pleased to note that Lodestar Energy Inc. has accomplished the following during the month of November:

- (1) Reworking of the coal storage pad pile to lessen the slopes and reseeding the pile.
- (2) Installation of a berm halfway down the coal storage pad pile and a silt fence at the base of the pile.
- (3) Transfer of topsoil from northeastern pits 12, 14, 16, & 18 to a designated topsoil stockpile location.

At the close of the field visit, Mr. Wayment agreed to do the following in the next few days:

- (1) Roughen the sediment pond topsoil pile access road and seed the snow-covered pile.
- (2) Push topsoil from the dozer track into the windrow along pit #25 and add a berm or silt fence to the toe of the pile by the access road.
- (3) Provide the Division with the approximate volumes of topsoil salvaged and stored in topsoil stockpiles and in temporary storage on the slope of pits 25 & 26.