



August 7, 2003

TO: Internal File

THRU: MaryAnn Wright, Associate Director of Mining
Daron R. Haddock, Permit Supervisor

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

RE: Technical Field Visit, Train Derailment Adjacent to Substitute Topsoil Stockpile, Lodestar Energy, Inc., White Oak Loadout, C/007/001

Other Attendees: Steve Demczak, DOGM

Date & Time: August 4, 2003, 1:15 – 3:00

PURPOSE:

To observe the damage done by a Union Pacific train carload of coal that derailed immediately adjacent to the “Vegetation Supporting Material” stockpiled for the reclamation of the White Oak Loadout.

OBSERVATIONS:

Surface Ownership Drawing R645-301-112.500 (Chap 1, Vol 1/5) lists the Marakis and Liodakis as surface owners of the White Oak Loadout. Table 112.500 (revised 10/26/01) indicates contact information for the Marakis, Koula/Helen and George/Helen Liodakis families 150 East 100 South; P.O. Box 805, Price UT 84501 (p1-6, Chap 1, Vol 1/5).

The damaged train tracks had been repaired by Union Pacific. Wreckage and debris from replacing the tracks and about 150 cu yds of coal was pushed out of the railroad right of way onto the private property. The piles of coal and gravel debris cover the east slope of the substitute topsoil stockpile for a length of about 195 feet. Stacks of new railroad ties, steel wreckage, and debris are piled on the substitute topsoil as well. On the reclaimed area, by the entrance gate, steel rails have been stockpiled and a tractor has been parked.

TECHNICAL FIELD VISIT

Photographs of the situation were taken by Karl Houskeeper and are in the mine images folder under the file name 08012003.

No information was found in the MRP concerning the railroad Right of Way. Older surface maps (1989) refer to the railroad as the Denver Rio Grande Western RR. Chapter one of Volume 3/5 Right of Way information indicates that the Carbon County Railway has an easement on the property, but a copy of the railroad easement was not found. Division staff understands the rail line to be the Union Pacific Rail Road.

There is a lot of steel that might be recycled as scrap metal. The new railroad ties and containers of nails have value. But, according to Mr. Demczak, the coal is too small in size to be of value as stoker coal.

We spoke with two railroad employees who suggested contacting Paul Donnelly, Director of Track Maintenance, SLC office of Union Pacific Rail Road for more information about the railroad's plans to clean up the site. Mr. Paul Donnelly's telephone number is (801) 595-3440.

Musk thistle (*Carduus nutans L*) is in full bloom along the access road (bisecting the recent reclamation work). This species is a noxious weed in the State of Utah. Pursuant to Section 4-17-7 of the Utah Noxious Weed Act, the weed must be controlled. It is recommended that the Division eliminate the weed through complete removal of the blooming plants. Next year the Division could spray the plants earlier in the season, when they are in rosette form.

RECOMMENDATIONS/CONCLUSIONS:

The Division should take steps to eliminate the noxious weed, musk thistle, in full bloom on the access roads of the White Oak loadout site.

Mr. Paul Donnelly should be contacted to determine: 1) the exact width of the railroad Right of Way, and 2) whether the Union Pacific Rail Road has plans to recycle and/or remove the coal, steel wreckage, and railroad ties or otherwise clean up the private property adjacent to the railway.