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From: April Abate
To: April Abate; Daron Haddock; Dave Darby; Joe Helfrich; Pete Hess; Pr...
CC: Louis Amodt; OGMCOAL@utah.gov
Date: 4/27/2009 2:47 PM
Subject: White Oak Reclamation Project
Place: OGMCOAL@utah.gov
Attachments: April Abate.vcf

Hello All:

I have collected some information on what the outstanding issues are at White Oak based on the photos, the original reclamation plan in the MRP, the Division recommendation report issued last fall, and talking to Louis Amodt. I recommend we have a field visit as soon as practical to discuss the following issues. I also recommend that we invite AML to get their perspective on the site, as well as the current landowner. From that point, we can formulate our costs based on these issues, as well as any others we identify.

I. Repair segments of the haul road where it is starting to fail - This may be our item of highest priority since we need a good road to mobilize the heavy equipment for all the subsequent repair work.

II. Repair Segments of the Stream Channel - we should evaluate how feasible it would be to install some of the drop structures discussed in the original Whiskey Creek Reclamation plan in the White Oak MRP. Louis indicated to me that drop structures would of been the preferred option in those steep gradient areas of the stream channel where the failures occurred; however he was limited to what he could do because of funding. Also, I have an email into Water Rights inquiring into any necessary stream alteration permitting.

III. Improve vegetation along the slopes and recontour the slopes. Louis indicated that Lodestar (the original contractor) used all the segregated topsoil as fill in the area of the portals. Because all this "good" topsoil was buried, very little was left to use to revegetate the slopes. One solution is to dig that topsoil back out and redistribute it properly.

IV. Repair the Sinkhole in the area of the buried portals - Lodestar used the topsoil to bury the portals and did not compact the soil. Louis suggested digging that whole area out and compacting it properly with more robust material.

V. Buried Sediment Pond Remediation - The base of Whiskey Creek is the old sediment pond. The sludge in the sediment pond was not pumped out, but apparently just "buried". As a result, AML encountered what was described as a "thick black slime". Since the base of the stream channel is one of the areas in need of repair, we will likely encounter this material when we do the earthwork. We'll need to figure out how we are going to manage it (i.e. off-site disposal).

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