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Michael O. Leavitt
Governor
Ted Stewart
Executive Director
James W. Carter
Division Director

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203
801-538-5340
801-359-3940 (Fax)
801-538-5319 (TDD)

June 4, 1993

TO: File

THRU: Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor

FROM: Sharon Falvey, Senior Reclamation Hydrologist *SKF*

RE: Castle Gate Ponds Round 3 DO-92A and Amendment 92C Pond 009, Recommended Approval Following Amendment Correction, AMAX Coal Company, Castle Gate Mine, ACT/007/004, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION

This review analyzes the amendment received by the Division on May 10, 1993, to address the deficiencies noted in the April 9, 1993, letter and attached March 23, 1993, memo. Portions of the previous memo are restated for clarification. Pertinent amendments previously submitted were: Pond 009; Amendment 92C, received November 30, 1992; and the remaining reconstructed pond amendments received on February 11, 1993.

The Division can accept the proposal to retain the Hardscrabble ponds in the present configuration according to R645-742.221.33 with the condition the operator complete reclamation of Hardscrabble Canyon within the 18 month period, as demonstrated in their proposal. Any discharge from this pond within the 18 month period must be in compliance with the UPDES permit.

It should be noted that the actual operation plan for the primary spillway outlets on Ponds 007 and 008 will vary from the design in the plan, but is approved for the 18 month period from the date of this memo, as it currently exists, as long as the discharge structures are adequately designed and implemented.

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The operator must remove the information pertaining to the CN back calculation procedure for pond 009 which is no longer applicable (pages 3-14 and 15). Replacement text summarizing the probability of exceedence calculations presented in this current proposal should replace the outdated text. Previously approved information pertaining to pond design changes should be submitted as a complete package of the pond amendments including copies of the March 23, 1993, memo prior to Division approval.

The operator should be requested to submit sufficient copies for other agency review. Approval letters must be received from the Department of Environmental Quality Engineers and UPDES. A copy of this deficiency memo should accompany the copies submitted to the referenced agencies.

Round 3 Response to April 9, 1993, Deficiency Memo

R645-301-742.221.32

1. *The operator must obtain approval from the District Engineer, Department of Environmental Health, prior to approval of this amendment.*

Analysis

The operators May 5, 1993, submittal proposes to commit to reclamation and provide a detailed storm probability analysis to demonstrate that there is low risk of allowing the ponds to remain in their present configuration until reclamation (an 18 month period according to the presented analysis).

The operator indicated in the March 23, 1993, memo that the regulations do not stipulate a minimum clearance between the decant entrance and the maximum sediment level. However, the regulations do require consent of other agencies. The distance identified was a permit condition of the original pond amendment approval which was not implemented. The elevation difference on decants applied to all reconfigured ponds from the August 28, 1993, approval. The approval applies to all ponds but, at this point, is considered significant for those ponds which may remain past the 1994 reclamation season. See the August 28, 1991, memo for pond approval.

R645-301-742.223

1. *Prior to extending culverts on Ponds 007 and 008, the operator must submit notice of approval from the Department of Environmental Quality for the UPDES changes in discharge points to the Division.*

Response

The operator chooses to retain the existing configuration of the outlets to Ponds 007 and 008.

Analysis

Both ponds are designed to retain the 10-year/24-hour event. Therefore, the overflow from these ponds to Pond 009 does not affect the existing runoff capacity of Pond 009 until the 10-year/24-hour event is exceeded.

It should be noted that the actual operation plan for the primary spillway outlets on Ponds 007 and 008 will vary from the design in the plan, but is approved for the 18 month period from the date of this memo, as it currently exists, as long as the discharge structures are adequately designed and implemented.

Pond 009, Round 1

1. *The operator must provide additional information on data gathering methodology.*

Response

The operator chose not to provide the additional information (items 1-6 from the March 23, 1993, memo), but instead chose to provide a probability analysis to justify retention of the existing pond over a short time period.

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Analysis

The operator has proposed to reclaim Hardscrabble in 1994 as committed to in the April 15, 1993, memo to Mr. Lowell Braxton. The current pond will retain the runoff from a 1.69 precipitation event, slightly greater than a 5-year precipitation event. The probability of a 1.69 inch event or larger occurring once in this 18 month time period is 22 percent.

The operator is required to continue monitoring UPDES discharge points and is responsible for meeting NPDES discharge requirements. The demonstration required by R645-301-742.221.33 for the effluent limitations will be provided through submitting the samples analyzed from Pond 009 discharges.

The Division can accept the proposal to retain the Hardscrabble ponds in the present configuration according to R645-742.221.33 with the condition the operator complete reclamation of Hardscrabble Canyon within the 18 month period, as demonstrated in their proposal. Any discharge from this pond within the 18 month period must be in compliance with the UPDES permit.

cc: Paul Baker
CGDOPOND.APC