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January 11, 1995

TO: Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor

FROM: Steven M. Johnson, Reclamation Hydrologist

SMT #2

RE: Draft Review, ASCA measure changes in Sowbelly Canyon, Castle Gate Mine, Amax Coal Company, ACT/007/004-94H, Working File, Carbon County, Utah

SYNOPSIS

Amax Coal Company submitted an amendment of the Castle Gate Mine reclamation plan that changes the text of the plan to show implemented alternate sediment control measures. The measures were implemented in the field during the summer and fall of 1994.

ANALYSIS

RECLAMATION PLAN

HYDROLOGIC INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-760

Analysis:

Pages 3.2-30, 3.2-34, and 3.2-36 of the Castle Gate Mine Plan have been changed to reflect sediment control measures as they were implemented in the field. Contour furrowing was added to the list of prospective sediment control measure on page 3.2-30. Pages 3.2-34 and 35 were changed to show completion of reclamation steps 3 through 8 in the summer and fall of 1994. Page 3.2-37 states that the road in Sowbelly Canyon, Road A-2, will be used infrequently for maintenance purposes and only in periods of no flow in the channel. This is because part of the road runs along the bottom of the main channel.

Findings:

The addition of contour furrowing in the reclamation of Sowbelly Canyon can be a successful sediment control measure. Depressions in the land surface will aid in deterring erosion by trapping water in small depressions and by making the longer slopes discontinuous. This

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measure does, however, have a potential for failure that should be watched closely. Amax Coal should monitor the furrow continuously and, should failure occur, a new or additional sediment control measure would be necessary. The pages altered in this amendment do not give specific information about the use of each measure. Amax will need to show the location treated by each measure on the final as-builts.

RECOMMENDATION

This submittal is complete and accurate. It should be approved as an amendment to the Castle Gate Mine MRP. The alternate sediment control areas should be monitored continually for success, and, if problems occur, it may become necessary to implement new or additional measures. Amax must show the location treated by each type of sediment control measure on the as-builts.

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