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

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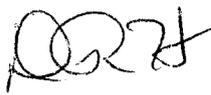
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October 20, 1999

TO: File

THRU: Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor 

FROM: Michael Suflita, Senior Reclamation Hydrologist 

RE: Silt Fence & Straw Bale Removal, Canyon Fuel Company, LLC, Skyline Mine, ACT/007/005-99D, File #2, Carbon County, Utah.

SUMMARY

On September 20, 1998, the Division received an application to amend the existing Mining and Reclamation Plan by removing silt fences at several conveyor supports and at the minesite topsoil storage pile and loadout topsoil storage pile. This TA is an evaluation of that amendment.

OPERATION PLAN

HYDROLOGIC INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference R645-301-742

Analysis:

Other treatment facilities.

The Applicant indicates that they would like to remove silt fences at the supports, or bents, that hold up the coal conveyor belt along Utah Highway 264. These are at bents number 22, 26, 28, 32, 36, 42, 44, and 59. These silt fences have been in place for several years and grasses have been reestablished in the affected areas.

Similarly, the topsoil storage pile at the main minesite has silt fences that were used to reestablish vegetation after a flood eroded one side of the pile. Here too, the grasses have been reestablished. Also, the topsoil pile at the loadout had straw bales along the perimeter while vegetation was established. Field visits by Mike Suflita and Paul Baker confirm the reestablished vegetation in all affected areas. Design calculations for all the affected areas were provided and they used the required 10-year, 24-hour design event.

Drainage areas for the bents are 0.001 acre. The affected areas are on the order of 50 square feet at each bent. Since vegetation similar to the surrounding vegetation has been established, alternate sediment control measures are not needed and sediment contributions will be similar to the natural surrounding countryside.

The minesite topsoil storage pile drainage area is 0.53 acre and affected the area at each silt fence is on the order of 200 square feet. Since vegetation similar to the surrounding vegetation has been established, alternate sediment control measures are not needed and sediment contributions will be similar to the surrounding area. In addition, this small area is within the disturbed area and drains to a sediment pond.

The loadout topsoil storage area drainage area is 0.70 acre and the straw bales have been in place around the perimeter. Since vegetation similar to the surrounding vegetation has been established, alternate sediment control measures are not needed and sediment contributions will be similar to the surrounding area. In addition, this small area is within the disturbed area and drains to a sediment pond.

Findings:

The requested amendment meets minimum regulatory requirements and the silt fences and straw bales can be removed.

RECOMMENDATION:

The amendment can be approved in its present form.