

0024



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

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor
Kathleen Clarke
Executive Director
Lowell P. Braxton
Division Director

1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
PO Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801
801-538-5340
801-359-3940 (Fax)
801-538-7223 (TDD)

February 1, 1999

TO: File

THRU: Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor *DH*

THRU: Joe Helfrich, Permit Supervisor *JH*

FROM: Michael Suflita, Reclamation Hydrologist *MS*

RE: Waste Rock Expansion, Canyon Fuel Company, LLC, Skyline Mines, ACT/007/005-98F, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

SUMMARY:

Canyon Fuel is proposing to expand the waste rock disposal site associated with the Skyline Mine. The Division received the latest, or third, amendment submittal on January 14, 1999. This TA is in response to that submittal. This is a review of the hydrological aspects of the latest submittal.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

HYDROLOGIC RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference R645-301-121.200

Analysis:

The maps contained on Dwg. 3.2.8-2, Waste Rock Facilities and Drainage Control, and Dwg. 4.16.1-1B, Waste Rock Disposal Site Reclamation Plan appear to be accurate now. The Permit Area Boundary along with the other boundaries are now consistent and complete.

Findings:

The information provided in the application is considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

Regulatory Reference R645-301-742.300

Analysis:

Diversion ditches UD-5 and UD-6 are both concrete lined as are the ditches in place today,

Waste Rock Expansion
ACT/007/005-98F
November 6, 1998
Page 2

before the changes to the waste rock pile. They have been performing well and the new ones should do so in the future. UD-5 is a significantly less slope than the channel that feeds into it and this will present a ongoing maintenance issue with deposited sediment.

The other ditches appear to be properly designed with a new DD-16 that flows into the existing and stabilized reach that is rock armored. The two swales in the road appear adequate.

Findings:

The information provided in the application is considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

Regulatory Reference R645-301-742.221.34

Analysis:

The sediment pond has a locking valve assembly which allows the pond to be decanted after filling with water.

Findings:

The information provided in the application is considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

Regulatory Reference R645-301-742.240

Analysis:

The plan shows ASCA 24 (a) below the lower end of the access road. This area is to be revegetated and will have sediment fences at the lower end. These lead to a sediment trap at the low point. This appears to be an adequate means to deal with the situation. The plan, pg.4-38 (a), describes how the area will be hydro-seeded and reclaimed immediately after road construction.

Findings:

The information provided in the application is considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

Regulatory Reference R645-301-742.223

Analysis:

The sediment pond and it's associated spillway have been designed to meet or exceed the

Waste Rock Expansion

ACT/007/005-98F

November 6, 1998

Page 3

regulation design events.

Findings:

The information provided in the application is considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

Regulatory Reference R645-301-733.220

Analysis:

The Dwg. 4.16.1-1B, Waste Rock Disposal Site Reclamation Plan shows the final reclamation configuration of the waste rock site. This indicates that the sediment pond below the site and stock pond above the site will be left after reclamation. These ponds would then be classified as permanent impoundments. Such impoundments cannot be authorized by the Division until the following requirements (from the above-referenced regulation) have been satisfied.

- The size and configuration of the impoundment will be adequate for its intended purpose.
- The water quality will be suitable for the intended purpose and will not degrade receiving waters.
- The water level will be sufficiently stable and be capable of supporting the intended use.
- Final grading will provide for adequate safety and access for proposed water users.
- The impoundment will not diminish quality or quantity of water used by adjacent landowners.

There is nothing in the submittal to show that these requirements have been met. The Applicant is encouraged to read the full text of the regulation to be certain all requirements are met in their submittal. Until the above-referenced requirements have been met, the reclamation plan cannot be approved.

The plan addresses the issue of water rights associated with these ponds. Page 4-78(a) indicates the ponds will be left after reclamation only if the owners of the ponds provide proof of water rights.

Findings:

The information provided in the application is not considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations. Prior to approval, the Applicant must provide the following in accordance with the requirements of:

R645-301-733.220, demonstration of necessary requirements to allow the leaving of permanent impoundments, OR revision of the plan to show reclamation of the two ponds.

Waste Rock Expansion
ACT/007/005-98F
November 6, 1998
Page 4

RECOMMENDATION

The proposed amendment can not be approved in the present form. The Applicant must provide the information outlined in the paragraph above before approval can be granted. Since it is the reclamation portion of the plan that is non-compliant, that portion can be revised while the modification of the waste rock pile proceeds. The Applicant should be allowed to proceed with modification of the waste rock pile and still be required to bring the reclamation portion of their Mining and Reclamation Plan into compliance. This can be done by stipulating compliance while still approving the amendment.