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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)

June 26, 2002

TO: Internal File

THRU: Daron R. Haddock, Permit Supervisor 

FROM: Gregg A. Galecki, Sr. Reclamation Specialist/Hydrology 

RE: Technical Field Visit to contact Landowner, Canyon Fuel Company, LLC., Skyline Mine, C/007005

Other Attendees: Mr. Robert Radakovich, Landowner

Date & Time: June 25, 2002; 07:30 – 14:00

PURPOSE:

Primary objective of the field visit was to contact Mr. Radakovich in person and acquire permission to conduct some field studies on his property located on Mud Creek, south of Scofield, Utah.

OBSERVATIONS:

Initial contact was made at Mr. Radakovich's home in Price, Utah, at 07:30. We discussed the situation for approximately 1-½ hours and then went to the property. The meeting went very well. Mr. Radakovich is willing to have Mt. Nebo and EarthFax personnel on his property to conduct field studies related to increased flows in Mud Creek. He and I discussed the work to be conducted on a brief outline/agreement that we both signed and have retained a copy. I recommend that Mt. Nebo and EarthFax personnel have a copy of the outline when they access the property to eliminate any confusion. Mr. Radakovich was primarily concerned about stewardship of the land. He seemed willing and open to learn about better range management of his riparian land. To reduce bank erosion, Mr. Radakovich showed me areas where he installed dead trees. I gave him some information on the Price River Soil Conservation District. I plan on contacting him next week (after CFC meeting) and update him on the proposed time-line of work to be conducted this year.

TECHNICAL FIELD VISIT

Mr. Radakovich also showed me his primary concern of erosion is located immediately upstream of his irrigation head gate. The head gate is located adjacent to the road right-of way, and the bank along the road is eroding badly. UDOT or Soil Conservation personnel installed rebar and brush along the bank approximately 15 years ago. The rebar is still present, but the brush has decomposed and is no longer there. Mr. Radakovich said he needed to call UDOT to see if they will do anything; if not, at a minimum he will have to hire a backhoe operator to install some trees or brush behind the rebar. I suggested I talk to the mine and ask if they would be willing to send a backhoe down and help Mr. Radakovich. He appreciated the suggestion. I spoke with Chris Hansen on June 26, 2002, and he indicated he was amenable to the suggestion.

While on the property, it was noted that stream flow was high and very cloudy/muddy. Viewing the confluence of Mud Creek and Eccles Creek confirmed the high, muddy flow was coming from Eccles Creek. Following the flow upstream could not determine the source of the sediment creating the cloudiness. Discharge from the mine was clear, but high. It was assumed the sediment likely originated from a stream bank failure/sloughing. Observations of Eccles Creek adjacent to the Canyon Fuel loadout indicated the flow was 'over-bank' or above bank-full capacity. An attempt to document current flow/discharge from the mine was unsuccessful because Chris Hansen was not available and Gary Taylor indicated he was the only person to provide the information.

Checking with Chris Hansen on June 26, 2002, the source of the sediment and high water was related to the repair of a water pipe running in a borrow ditch adjacent to the UDOT road. The water in the pipe supplies fresh water to the mine from the fresh water tank located above the mine. Chris Hansen did not know the volume of the flow, but indicated 'it wasn't much'. Mr. Hansen also stated the amount of flow yesterday ranged from 8,000 – 9,200 gpm.

RECOMMENDATIONS/CONCLUSIONS:

I will inform Canyon Fuel and necessary Division personnel of the details of the visit with Mr. Radakovich. I will also make a follow up phone call to Mr. Radakovich and update him on the potential work schedule after meeting with Canyon Fuel personnel.