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State of Utah
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April 9, 1996

TO: File *JK*

THRU: Joe Helfrich, Inspector Supervisor *JH*

FROM: Robert Davidson, Soils Reclamation Specialist *RAO*

RE: Technical Analysis of Application For Exploration License #UTU-73753
Amendment, Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation, CEP/007/038-96A, Folder #2,
Carbon County, Utah

SYNOPSIS

Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation has submitted an application to amend their exploration license (#UTU-73753) to drill additional coal exploration holes during 1996. Their amendment includes drilling four exploration holes on Federal lands controlled by the Bureau of Land Management.



ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INFORMATION

Soils Information

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 783.21; R645-301-220.

Analysis:

All soils within both the proposed lease and Project areas were identified using the Soil Survey of Carbon Area, Utah (USDA-SCS, 6/88). The exploration area contains a number of different soils derived from sandstone and shale parent material. A generalized soils map of the Lease Area with identified soils is given in Figure 2. Due to the rocky nature of the terrain, the soils are quite variable, with drainage, texture, reaction, and land-use generally site-specific as a result of weathering and the parent rock materials. The majority of the proposed drilling exploration area is covered by the Typic Argiborolls-Lithic Argiborolls-Typic Haploborolls Association.

Findings:

This portion of the amendment is considered complete and accurate.

PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Operational Standards

Regulatory Reference: R645-202-233.

Analysis:

Generally, where soils would be directly impacted at the drill sites, the topsoil will be removed and stockpiled for re-distribution during site reclamation. During excavation and reclamation, a responsible person who is competent and knowledgeable about soils will be on the site to assure proper soil recovery and replacement. Methods used to extract topsoil from drill pad locations will be mechanical equipment (e.g., front-end loader, backhoe, medium to small dozer, etc.).

Stockpiled soil will be protected from erosional loss by containment berms or silt fencing. If the topsoil pile is dry and deflating, it will be wet down. Segregation of weathered rock and/or subsoils excavated from the mud pits will be stockpiled separately from the topsoil; this material will be used to backfill the mudpits during reclamation.

Soil loss from off the drill site will be controlled by berms, straw bales, or silt fences. Areas on the drill site which might be contaminated by fuels or toxic substances will be protected by ground tarps or other means. Contaminated soils will be removed from the area and transported to an approved disposal facility.

Soil salvage by "live-haulage" will help stabilize the topsoil pile during storage, provide abundant organic matter to help maintain soil structure, and ensure an adequate, natural seed bank during reclamation

Findings:

This portion of the amendment is considered complete.

Reclamation Standards

Regulatory Reference: R645-202-240.

Analysis:

The sites and roads will be graded and reclaimed to approximate original contour. The topsoil will be replaced in a roughened and scarified state. Drainage will be controlled to prevent runoff across exposed soils. Methods to control erosion during storage, after reclamation and prior to vegetation establishment need to be specifically addressed. These may include mulching, tackifiers, netting, wetting, etc.

Although not specifically stated, it is presumed that the "Seed Mix" listed in Table 2 will be used for seeding and vegetating the reclamation site.

Findings:

The amendment is found deficient in accordance with the requirements of:

R645-202-242.100, -242.200. Methods for stabilizing the soil to control erosion prior to vegetation establishment need to be addressed. Reclamation efforts should specifically state vegetation issues.