0034

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

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March 16, 1999

TO: File

THRU: Joe Helfrich, Permit Supervisor

FROM: James D. Smith, Reclamation Specialist JDS

RE: Topsoil Borrow Area, Cyprus-Plateau Mining Corp., Star Point Mine, ACT/007/006-99B, File #2, Carbon County, Utah.

SUMMARY

A topsoil borrow area is to be located near Wattis townsite, and the topsoil is for reclamation at the Star Point Mine. The borrow area has a uniform, low-gradient east-northeast slope. The soil is derived from Mancos Shale, which is dominantly marine shale with interbedded sandstone and siltstone; otherwise geology is not a significant factor in determining the suitability of the borrowed topsoil for reclamation at the Star Point Mine nor in determining the reclamability of the borrow area itself.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: Pub. L 95-87 Sections 507(b), 508(a), and 516(b); 30 CFR Sec. 783., et. al.

GEOLOGIC RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.22; R645-301-623, -301-724.

Analysis:

The topsoil borrow area is to be located on soils developed from Mancos Shale, which is dominantly marine shale with interbedded sandstone and siltstone. No exploration drill

holes or subsidence monitoring are planned for the topsoil borrow area. There will be no coal mining at the site. The application contains sufficient geologic information to assist in determining the probable hydrologic consequences of the operation upon the quality and quantity of surface and ground water in the permit and adjacent areas, including the extent to which surface- and ground-water monitoring is necessary, and determining whether reclamation can be accomplished and whether the proposed operation has been designed to prevent material damage to the hydrologic balance outside the permit area. There is no subsidence control plan or determination of potentially acid- or toxic-forming strata down to and including the stratum immediately below the coal seam to be mined.

Geologic information includes a description of the areal and structural geology of the proposed permit and adjacent, and other parameters that can influence the required reclamation. Although any significant effect is unlikely, the information can be used to show how the areal and structural geology may affect the occurrence, availability, movement, quantity, and quality of potentially impacted surface and ground water. Geologic information is based on maps, plans, and detailed site specific information in the current MRP. It is also based on geologic literature and practices; however, the references given are unclear: Stokes (1988) is referenced in the text but the reference is not included at the end of Chapter 6 and the two references given at the end of the chapter are not referred to in the text.

The Division has made no determination that additional geologic information is needed to protect the hydrologic balance, to minimize or prevent subsidence, or to meet the performance standards. Because there will be no coal or overburden other than topsoil removed at this site, the Division waives in whole or in part the requirements of the collection and analysis of borehole information required of this section.

Findings:

Geologic information provided in the proposed amendment is not considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section. Prior to approval the applicant must provide the following information:

R645-301-624.130. - Clarify references in the text of Chapter 6 and in the "References" section at the end of Chapter 6.

MAPS, PLANS, AND CROSS SECTIONS OF RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 783.24, 783.25; R645-301-323, -301-411, -301-521, -301-622, -301-722, -301-731.

Analysis:

Coal Resource and Geologic Information Maps

There are no coal seams to be mined, no coal or rider seams, and no coal crop lines within the proposed permit or adjacent areas.

Existing Surface Configuration Maps

Drawing 5-1 uses contours to adequately represent the existing land surface configuration of the area to be affected by the proposed topsoil borrow operation. The contours extend at least 100 feet beyond the limits of disturbances, show the premining configuration of the land and natural variations in slope, and accurately represent the range of natural slopes and geomorphic differences of the area to be disturbed.

Mine Workings Maps

There are no workings of active, inactive, or abandoned underground mines, including mine openings to the surface within the proposed permit and adjacent areas.

Monitoring Sampling Location Maps

There are no test borings and core samplings within the proposed permit and adjacent areas.

Well Maps

There are no water wells or gas and oil wells within the proposed permit area and adjacent areas.

Contour Maps

Drawing 5-1 uses contours to adequately represent the existing land surface configuration of the area to be affected by the proposed topsoil borrow operation. The contours extend at least 100 feet beyond the limits of disturbances, show the premining configuration of the land and natural variations in slope, and accurately represent the range of

natural slopes and geomorphic differences of the area to be disturbed.

Findings:

Maps, plans, and cross sections of resource information provided in the PAP are considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section.

OPERATION PLAN

COAL RECOVERY

Analysis:

No coal is to be mined.

SUBSIDENCE CONTROL PLAN

Analysis:

Performance standards for subsidence control.

There will be no subsidence.

SLIDES AND OTHER DAMAGE

Analysis:

The topsoil borrow operation should not create a potential for slides or other damage that may have a potential adverse effect on public, property, health, safety, or the environment, including potential impoundment hazards.

Findings:

Operations information on Coal Recovery, Subsidence Control, and Slides and Other Damage is adequate to meet the requirements of these sections because no coal is to be mined in the proposed topsoil borrow area.

RECLAMATION PLAN

MINE OPENINGS

Analysis:

There will be no exploration holes, other drillholes or boreholes, shafts, wells, or other exposed underground openings.

Findings:

Reclamation information on Mine Openings is adequate to meet the requirements of this section.