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January 17, 1985

TO: Coal File

FROM: Thomas L. Portle, Reclamation Soils Specialist *LP*

RE: Onsite review of Salt and Slag Storage (Area C) and Soil Borrow Area Stream Ford, U. S. Fuel Company, Hiawatha Complex, ACT/007/011, Folder No. 3 and 7 Carbon County, Utah

On January 3, 1985 Randy Gainer of Earth Fax (consultant to U. S. Fuels) and Tom Portle of the Division visited the salt storage area (Area C) and a stream ford proposed in the topsoil borrowing plan. They were accompanied by Jean Semborski of U. S. Fuel. An on-site meeting was necessary to select the most efficient and economical sampling approach in order to determine the extent of salt contamination.

As a result of the field tour an appropriate sampling strategy was developed. This was a modification of the previously developed strategy. The plan of digging trenches between the storage area and the creek was modified to the extent that it instead utilizes a set of 10 sample pits to obtain the needed data. The depth intervals are the same as discussed in the November 29, 1984 certified letter to Mr. Eccli. This approach, while more efficient and economical carries with it a certain amount of risk. In the event that the alleged contamination plume is determined as not having been adequately delineated the need for additional future sampling may become apparent. It was also thought that the excavation attendant to implementation of a sediment catch basin this spring could be conducted simultaneously with the sampling program. Dual excavation and sampling would save to avoid redundancy.

The time frame for such samplly was discussed. The possibility that it should be done as soon as possible was considered versus waiting until after the spring thaw. Consultation with Jack Wittman, Reclamation Hydrologist, Bart Kale, Reclamation Inspector and Randy Gainer has resulted in a favoring of the later approach.

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A deadline of May 15, 1985 is attached to the implementation of the sampling program. A report of findings from the sampling program, interpretation and a proposal for mitigation as necessary is due on or before July 1, 1985.

During the field tour conductivity data was taken at various points above and below area C on Miller Creek.

| LOCATION                           | CONDUCTIVITY IN MMHOS/CM |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Above Area C                    | 990                      |
| 2. Below Confluence w/small stream | 390                      |
| 3. At culvert outlet               | 300                      |
| 4. Below Area C                    | 250                      |
| 5. 50' below #4 on stream          | 420                      |
| 6. 50' below #5 on stream          | 410                      |
| 7. 30' below #6 iron seep          | 600                      |

Purusant to the wishes of Walt Swain of DSM, Denver we inspected the proposed stream ford of Miller Creek. My impression of the area is as follows:

1. The area appears aptly suited for a stream crossing should the topsoil borrow areas be exploited. An existing road and crossing minimizes the potential extent of fresh disturbance. The minimal grade of the road and the gentle approach to the ford are likewise advantageous. The shortest haul distance between the soil borrow and the refuse piles to receive the topsoil is attained by utilizing the proposed stream ford.

I conveyed these impressions to Mr. Swain during a phone conversation on January 9, 1985.

Mr. Randy Gainer contacted me on January 14, 1985 regarding his progress on the sampling program and to discuss deadlines.

jvb  
cc: W. Swain  
R. Gainer  
B. Kale  
S. Linner  
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