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UNITED STATES FUEL COMPANY

HIAWATHA, UTAH 84527

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May 29, 1987

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Mr. Lowell Braxton, Administrator
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203

DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

Dear Mr. Braxton;

United States Fuel Company seeks to amend their current mine permit with regard to refuse storage. Adequate refuse storage space is an ongoing concern of the Hiawatha operation. Refuse will continue to be a byproduct of the preparation plant. Although we are planning a long term storage area, it is mandatory that we obtain additional space while those plans are being reviewed and implemented. Presently, refuse is being stored on the north side of slurry pond #4. In order to maximize the area allocated to refuse storage, U.S. Fuel proposes to store refuse in the disturbed area between the present refuse embankment and the existing sediment pond. This would provide the most additional space with the least amount of disturbance and no new disturbance outside the present permit disturbed area boundary.

Exhibit F-540 depicts the present refuse storage configuration as well as the new proposed refuse storage plan. As can be seen in Section A-A of this drawing, the toe of the existing pile would be extended eastward within the boundaries of the present sediment controls. This would allow the refuse pile to be extended lengthwise and increased in height thus maximizing the potential storage capability of this area. The ultimate contour configuration is depicted by dashed lines.

The area indicated on the map, shaded in yellow, amounts to two (2) acres and is presently covered by sagebrush. The sagebrush will be removed before topsoil is stripped. A soil sample was collected from a test pit within the two acre area. Refer to the enclosed soil analyses report. The soil is quite similar to that found in nearby borrow area A below slurry pond #5. The top 18 inches appears to be the best material in the soil horizon. U.S. Fuel proposes to strip this material and stockpile it for future use. The foundation shown on the drawing is a partially filled in basement of a past structure no longer in existence. It has no historical or cultural significance.



Mr. Lowell Braxton, Administrator
May 29, 1987

Page 2

Topsoil will be removed to the topsoil pile location. A new north diversion ditch will be cut to the sediment pond. No modification will be made to the pond itself as the pond is designed to handle all of the runoff from this area. The two diversion ditches leading to the sediment pond will serve as boundary guides for topsoil removal.

The volume of the stripped topsoil material will be approximately 124,000 ft.³. Because of the volume involved, it is important to select a storage configuration that will; 1) minimize the amount of handling as well as the haulage distance 2) be relatively unobtrusive 3) be easy to protect and revegetate. We feel the site that best fits these qualifications is the area adjacent to the berm just west of the lower storage yard. See Exhibit III-3 in Chapter III of the Mine Permit.

A topsoil pile containing the above mentioned volume of stripped topsoil will be constructed just west of the present berm. The volume and location dictate the pile dimensions to be five feet high, 40 feet wide and 600 feet long. The present berm will serve to prevent soil loss on the downstream side of the new pile.

The new topsoil pile will be revegetated with seed mix #1 proposed for borrow area A. Refer to Chapter IX, Table IX-1 in the permit. Seed and hydromulch will be applied in October before snow cover is present.

After topsoil is removed from the two acres a haul road ten feet wide will be graded down to it around the north side of the present refuse pile, taking care to stay within the confines of the existing diversion ditches. The road will loop back around the east side of slurry pond no. 4 so that the refuse trucks can exit thus maintaining a one way traffic flow. Again the road will be graded on the existing refuse within the confines of the existing diversion ditches.

Implementation of this plan will allow U.S. Fuel two additional years of refuse storage before additional refuse storage capacity is required. A long range refuse storage site is also depicted on drawing F-540. This larger storage space must be permitted and be prepared for refuse storage by the time our current refuse areas become maximized.

Mr. Lowell Braxton, Administrator
May 29, 1987

Page 3

All legal, financial, compliance, reclamation and operational information required for the review of this amendment can be referenced in the appropriate chapters of the U.S. Fuel mine permit.

Sincerely,



Jean Semborski
Environmental Coordinator

JS:lj

Enclosures:

SOIL ANALYSES FOR TEST PIT
BELOW SLURRY POND NO. 4

| | Date Sampled - 10/08/86 | | |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| | Sample A 0-1.4' | Sample B 1.4-2.4' | Sample B 2.4-5' |
| Saturation % | 38 | 43 | 34 |
| pH 1 Units | 7.4 | 7.6 | 8.1 |
| Conductivity 1 mmhos/cm @25 C | 0.61 | 0.55 | 0.84 |
| Calcium 1 meg/l | 6.07 | 4.57 | 5.13 |
| Magnesium 1 meg/l | 1.55 | 1.55 | 3.65 |
| Sodium 1 meg/l | 0.41 | 0.58 | 0.92 |
| SAR | 0.21 | 0.33 | 0.44 |
| Nitrogen Total % | 0.15 | 0.07 | 0.33 |
| Nitrogen, Nitrate mg/kg | 0.5 | -0.1 | -0.1 |
| Phosphorus, 3 Available mg/kg | 2.9 | 1.8 | 1.2 |
| Potassium, 3 mg/kg | 120 | 30 | 30 |
| CEC meg/100g | 11.6 | 8.0 | 4.4 |
| Neutralization Potential % CaCO ₃ | 1.4 | 28.5 | 17.0 |
| Organic Matter % | 6.0 | 2.2 | 1.8 |
| Sand % | 58 | 50 | 60 |
| Silt % | 26 | 31 | 25 |
| Clay % | 16 | 19 | 15 |
| Texture | SL | L | SL |

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