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

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January 5, 1995

TO: Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor

FROM: Paul Baker, Reclamation Biologist PB

RE: Draft Review, Responses to Division Order 92A, Hiawatha Complex, U. S. Fuel Company, ACT/007/011, Working File, Carbon County, Utah

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SYNOPSIS

It appears that U. S. Fuel has not yet adequately responded to Division Order 92A issued with the permit renewal in March of 1992. The only issue remaining from the Division Order concerned reclamation of the roads in South and Middle Forks of Miller Creek.

The text of the plan in the file copy of the mining and reclamation plan (dated June 2, 1993) says the roads will be reclaimed to an unimproved condition. However, Division correspondence dated January 7, 1994, says the plans submitted in June 1993 are still considered deficient and cannot be approved. Therefore, the text that has been inserted into the mining and reclamation plan is not approved.

The commitment in the June 2, 1993, submittal to remove the pavement and to seed the roads is acceptable. However, the plan also includes a request for a variance from approximate original contour (AOC) restoration requirements. A few other deficiencies were found in this plan, such as drainage control and the need to reduce the road width to only what is necessary for the postmining land use. In a memorandum accompanying the January 7, 1994, letter, the Division recommended that U. S. Fuel try to justify leaving the roads without a request for a variance from AOC restoration requirements. U. S. Fuel responded on April 5, 1994, with a submittal that removed the AOC variance request but eliminated the commitment to remove the pavement.

The most recent correspondence from the Division concerning this issue was sent June 10, 1994. This letter affirmed that the postmining land uses are wildlife, grazing, and recreation. It said that comparing roads supporting these uses in other adjacent canyons leads one to conclude that only a single-lane unpaved road would be necessary. It also said U. S. Fuel needs to commit to reclaim the roads in the South and Middle Forks of Miller Creek to the width and condition necessary to support the postmining land use. The letter requested that U. S. Fuel provide plans for the reclamation of the roads on or before July 11, 1994. No response could be found in the Division's files.

RECOMMENDATION

U. S. Fuel needs to submit plans to reclaim the roads in South and Middle Forks to an unimproved condition. The April 5, 1994, submittal contains adequate justifications for leaving the roads in an unimproved condition for the postmining land use, and it shows how the area will be returned to approximate original contour while leaving the road and associated cuts and fills.