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

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DIVISION OF OIL GAS & MINING
FIELD VISIT FORM
TECHNICAL

Date : December 3, 1996
Time: 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Mine: Hiawatha Mine
File Number: ACT/007/011
DOGM Staff: Robert Davidson, Susan White and Wayne Western
Other Attendees: K. C. Jones and Mike Watson, U.S. Fuel Company

Purpose:

- Observe topsoiling activities in reference to the approved MRP and grading on Pond #5.
- Observe and discuss options of the stockpiled A & B horizon topsoil from Borrow Area "A".

Observations:

- Topsoiling of Pond #5 is in process with only the upper western edge having received soil.
- Soil borrow operations from Borrow Area "A" are proceeding according to the approved amendment. The A & B horizon topsoil has been stockpiled within the Borrow site. Subsoil is currently being excavated and hauled to Pond #5 from the eastern most section of the borrow site in the lower equipment storage yard area.
- Both Pond #4 and #5 are not graded according to the currently approved MRP. The top surfaces of both piles have concave grading which routes runoff away from the outslopes. In addition, drainage from the concave surfaces is routed to Pond #5A where runoff is collected in a sedimentation basin. Pond #5 is graded to a central depression routing runoff to a central channel that drains directly into Pond #5A. Pond #4 surface is graded towards the western edge of the pile which borders the railroad tracks. Surface runoff from Pond #4 is routed along it's western most border into a ditch that eventually drains into Pond #5A.
- Logistic and economic concerns are raised about the recently approved soil amendment to use the A and B horizon material to reclaim Borrow Area "A". Since the volume of the A and B horizon soil provides little benefit for appreciable cover on the entire surface of Pond #5, the soil amendment established that these soils were best used to reclaim the borrow area. These soil horizons were salvaged as a unit from the surface and are now stockpiled within the borrow area. However, preservation of these salvaged soils require doubling handling while accessing the subsoils beneath the stockpiles.

Recommendations/Conclusions:

- Cease topsoiling of Pond #5 unless the approved grading plan is followed and established. Topsoiling the Pond #5 with an unapproved graded surface places the soil resource in jeopardy.
- If topsoiling ceases, the disturbed Borrow Area "A" needs to be stabilized for protection from wind and water erosion. In addition, the stockpiled A and B horizon topsoil and the disturbed subsoil surfaces should be protected from contamination and unnecessary compaction.
- A valid option for the salvaged A and B horizon topsoil was discussed for using these soils on the outslopes of Pond #5. Because of the smaller surface area of the outslope, the resulting soil depth will be much greater than over the entire surface, thus providing a real benefit for reclamation of Pond #5 outslope. The structural integrity and fertility of these soils is much better than the subsoils and should help provide faster and better vegetation establishment. The benefit of providing large boulders and rocks on the surface outslope soils may be provided as these materials are encountered and salvaged during subsoil excavation.

Signature: 
Robert A. Davidson, Reclamation Specialist III (Soils)

on December 4, 1996

