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# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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## TECHNICAL FIELD VISIT

**Date:** May 13, 1997  
**Mine:** Hiawatha Mine  
**File Number:** ACT/007/011  
**DOGM Staff:** Robert Davidson and Paul Baker  
**Other Attendees:** Mike Watson, U.S. Fuel Company

**Purpose:**

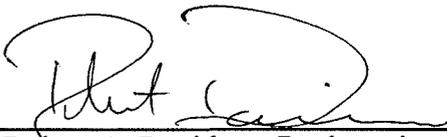
- Appraise the areas where wind blown coal fines have accumulated.

**Observations:**

- Wind blown coal fines have mainly accumulated east of the refuse piles.
- East of Pond #5 in the pinyon and juniper area, coal fine accumulation is dispersed with only minor, very small pockets accumulating in small drainage areas.
- East of Pond #4 in the sagebrush and grass areas, coal fine accumulation is significant with amounts varying from several inches to feet. The deepest coal fines were removed during soil borrow operations for Pond #4. The remaining fines are mainly located east/southeast between Pond#4 and the soil borrow area. The main effects is lack of grasses, with only brush communities being able to survive.

**Recommendations/Conclusions:**

- Since no significant accumulation of wind blown fines exist east of Pond #5 within the juniper and pinyon, there is no need to disturb this area to clean out the minor accumulations.
- Accumulation of coal fines east of Pond #4 is significant and pose a continual threat to the environment. Options to clean up the fines include plowing the fines into the soils using a range plow, thus minimizing disturbance to existing vegetation. Another option is to remove the deeper pockets using a front end loader. Another option is to push the fines to the north into a depression created during soil borrow and then cover the fines with soil. This low lying area is a neck that lies at the toe of Pond#4 and was used as an access route for hauling soil from the borrow area. This latter option could be done while reclaiming slurry Pond #2 located at the northeast toe of Pond #4.

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

on May 21, 1997