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

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December 1, 1997

TO: File

THRU: Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor *DH*

FROM: Wayne H. Western, Senior Reclamation Specialist *WHW*

RE: Refuse Basin Mining and Wash Plant Operation, Nevada Electric Investment Company, Wellington Preparation Plant, ACT/007/012-97H, File #2, Carbon County, Utah

Summary:

Amendment 97-H and Addendum 1 and Addendum 2 were submitted to the Division on September 10, 1997, October, 21 and November 7, 1997 respectively. The amendment and addendums describe the operation of the wash plant and pumping water into the slurry ponds.

Technical Analysis:

OPERATIONAL PLAN

OPERATIONAL ENGINEERING

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.2, 784.11; R645-301-231, -301-526, -301-528, -301-521, -301-526.

Mining Operations And Facilities

Type and Method of Mining Operations

Analysis:

In Section 5.26 of Amendment 97H the Permittee states:

Upper Refuse Basin

Present Use - The basin is used as a sediment pond to control runoff within the permit area. It will also support dredging operations to recover coal fines from this pond for the modular wash plant. An embankment forms an impoundment in the Northwest corner of this pond for the detention of tailings from the washing operation. The existing drain pipes will be rehabilitated.

Lower Refuse Basin Sediment Pond

Present Use - The basin is used as a sediment pond to control runoff within the permit area. It will also support dredging operations to recover coal fines from this pond for the modular wash plant.

Clearwater Pond

Present Use - Will remain to be used for sediment control at final reclamation. A few feet of coal fines have accumulated in the bottom of this pond and will be removed with heavy equipment prior to the introduction of any water. These fines will be stockpiled near the modular coal washing plant, and although very unlikely, could contain stormwater runoff.

Recovering the coal fines will be done by dredging the fines pumping them to the wash plant. At the wash plant the coal will be separated from the waste material. The coal will be shipped off the site as product and the waste material sent back to the slurry ponds. Water will be pumped into the slurry ponds to float the dredge and form the slurry. With the exception of dredging the fines this operation is similar to other coal processing operations that have been conducted on the site.

Findings:

The Permittee met the minimum regulatory requirements of this section.

Coal Recovery

Analysis:

In Section 522 of the Amendment 97H the Permittee states:

The coal fines currently stored in the slurry ponds will be processed in the wash plant. This will result in the removal of most of the fines from the slurry ponds prior to reclamation.

The approved reclamation plan calls for the coal fines to be covered during final reclamation. By processing the coal fines now the Permittee will be recovering the coal. The Division believes that by recovering the coal fines the Permittee will be maximizing coal recovery.

Findings:

The Permittee met the minimum regulatory requirements of this section.

Coal Mine Waste

Analysis:

All coal mine waste will be returned to the slurry ponds. The Division has already approved the Permittee to dispose of coal mine waste in the slurry ponds. No additional approval is needed.

Findings:

The Permittee met the minimum regulatory requirements of this section.

Recommendation:

The Division should approve amendment 97H and addendum 1 and addendum 2.