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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 TECHNICAL FIELD VISIT

DATE: July 17, 1997, 1:30 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.
MINE: Wellington Prep Plant
FILE NUMBER: ACT/007/012 #5
DOGM STAFF: Robert Davidson
ATTENDANTS: Joe Jarvis, JBR Environmental Consultants, Inc.

RE: Application for Minor Permit Modification for Construction of a Modular Coal Preparation Plant, NEICO, Wellington Prep Plant, ACT/007/012-97D, Carbon County, Utah

Purpose:

To consult with JBR on their soils investigation and check on existing sedimentation control measures around the clear water pond and pump house.

Observations:

- Two soils pits were prepared on the south bench above the slurry pond test plots. This area will be leveled and used for the water towers and diesel storage tanks. Soils on the bench are classified as Gerst/badlands complex. The Gerst soil overlaying the mancos shale is about 12 inches deep. According to the county survey, the Gerst should be about 3 feet in depth. It is apparent that the bench has been previously disturbed and flattened with the Gerst soil having been removed. By visual observation, it was surmised that the Gerst soil removed from the top bench was used to construct the Clear Water Dam located to the south.
- Sampled the slurry pond test plots for the purpose of closure. Soil treatments were based on a factorial design with topsoil and coarse refuse treatments overlaying the fine-slurry refuse. Two main soil treatments were sampled for the purpose of checking salt movement as influenced by treatments. Analyses will include selenium speciation and B. The two treatments sampled were (1) 12 inches soil cover over fine-slurry refuse and (2) 12 inches soil cover over coarse wash refuse which overlays fine-slurry refuse. One-gallon samples were taken from each layer.
- No sedimentation control structures (e.g., silt fences, straw bales, etc.) were in place at either the clear water pond or the pump house areas. Gullying and head cutting erosion were observed along the north-east side of the road between the road and the clear water dam. Water is currently channeled to this location from a small 12" culvert located beneath the north access road to the dam. In addition, runoff from the main county road at this location has been channeled into the gully.

Recommendations and Conclusions:

- Preserve the Gerst soil located in the clear water dam structure for use during reclamation; the soil is essentially stockpiled in the dam structure and could be used to help offset topsoil deficits. During the operation phase, it is proposed to pump coal process water to the clear water pond for clarification. Therefore, a protective liner needs to be installed to protect the Gerst soil or a different process developed so as not to send contaminated water to the clear water pond.
- Salvage and stockpile remaining Gerst soil on benches where surface disturbance will occur.

Signature:
Robert A. Davidson, Soils Reclamation Specialist

on July 18, 1997

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cc: Sharon Falvey
Paul Baker
Mary Ann Wright
Daron Haddock