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TECHNICAL MEMO

Coal Regulatory Program

December 20, 2012

TO: Internal File

THRU: April Abate, Team Lead *AAA*
12-20-2012

FROM: Priscilla Burton, CPSSc, Environmental Scientist III *PWB km SAS*

RE: Midterm Review Responses, Nevada Electric Investment Company, Wellington Preparation Plant, Permit C/007/0012, Task ID #4207

SUMMARY:

The Wellington Preparation site is in temporary cessation (Sec 5.15 of the MRP). Section 5.15 describes buildings that were demolished and the 45 acres graded on the west side of the Price River in 1997; and describes the COVOL operations on the east side of the river that ceased operation in 1999 and the COVOL structures (Figure 5.12-1) that were reclaimed in 2004. Total acreage that was regraded and seeded on the east side is 3.81 acres. Interim reclamation was also completed at the River Pump House (Appendix M of the MRP). The Division initiated this mid-term review by letter on March 13, 2012. I was asked to determine whether the four foot of cover requirement over the slurry ponds was justified and if not, whether the bond could be reduced. My memo for the previous task 4043, outlines the reasons that the Division found, in accordance with **R645-301-553.260**, that the four foot of cover requirement was justified and suggested some alternative approaches that might reduce bonding. A list of deficiencies was generated (Outgoing folder 5302012.pdf) which suggested removing the slurry, or irrigation of the slurry to move the boron down through the profile and subsequent demonstration of values in the surface four feet for boron and SAR that are below levels of concern. Alternatively, a suggestion was made that the cover may be reduced to 2.5 feet of the best available material within the permit area, if a capillary barrier, designed by a geotechnical soils engineer to prevent upward movement of boron, selenium and sodium is installed on top of the slurry ponds. A third suggestion is to minimize the foot print of the slurry ponds by removing the fines or grading the fines to a smaller footprint.

This Task #4207 response has addressed minor issues related to editing of the MRP. The larger issues of reducing cover were not discussed and so the four foot requirement remains. The decisions on Borrow Area soils and in particular to relinquish Borrow Area B soils were made in a discussion between the Coal Program Manager and Patrick Collins and this submittal reflects those agreements.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The application should be approved.

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