

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

November 13, 2003

TO: Internal File

THRU: Priscilla Burton, Environmental Scientist, Soils, Team Lead

FROM: Jerriann Ernstsens, Ph.D., Environmental Scientist, Biology.

RE: Post- mine land use change, UtahAmerican Energy Inc., Horse Canyon, C/007/0013, Task ID #1756

SUMMARY:

The Division received an amendment to address a post-mine land use change from wildlife to residential/recreational for 16.18 acres at the Horse Canyon mine. This memo reviews the Reclamation Plan section of the amendment.

TECHNICAL MEMO

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

RECLAMATION PLAN

REVEGETATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 785.18, 817.111, 817.113, 817.114, 817.116; R645-301-244, -301-353, -301-354, -301-355, -301-356, -302-280, -302-281, -302-282, -302-283, -302-284.

Analysis:

The request for a post-mine land use change for portions of the Horse Canyon Mine includes five major areas: sediment pond #2, building and pad area, fan and manway portal pad, powder and cap magazine area, and water tank area. Of these five areas, the Permittee plans to reclaim only the fan and manway portal area before the transfer.

Reclamation of the fan, manway portal, and rock dustbin includes dismantling and removing from the site the fan housing and concrete collars. The Permittee will fill and cover the resulting hole with three feet of material obtained from the rock dust pad. Material from the rock dust pad will also cover the rock dustbin by a minimum of four feet. Removal of material from the rock dust pad will lower the pad by less than two feet.

Preparing the sites for seeding includes regrading, hand raking, and gouging. The Permittee will blend the interface between the disturbed and undisturbed areas to the same slope. The Permittee provided an updated final seed mix (November 13, 2003) and will incorporate this mix into the MRP, pg. VIII-38A. The hand broadcast seeding rate will be at 100 PLS per square foot. The table below shows the updated seed mix for this project.

Grasses

Agropyron spicatum	Blue bunch wheat grass
Elymus salinus	Salina wildrye
Oryzopsis hymenoides	Indian ricegrass
Sporobolus cryptandrus	Sand dropseed
Elymus cinereus	Great basin wildrye
Hilaria jamesii	Galleta grass

Forbs

Sphaeralcea grossulariaefolia	Gooseberry-leaf globemallow
Penstemon palmeri	Palmer penstemon
Linum lewisii	Blue flax

Artemisia frigida

Fringed sagebrush

Shrubs

Artemisia tridentata

Basin big sagebrush

Atriplex canescens

Fourwing saltbush

Cowania mexicana

Cliff rose

Pershia tridentata

Antelope bitterbrush

Ephedra viridis

Green Mormon tea

Findings:

Information provided in the application is considered adequate to meet the minimum Revegetation section of the Reclamation Plan regulations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Approve the postmining land use change for Horse Canyon Mine. The Division informs the Permittee, however, that this submittal references the MRP for discussion on items such as procedures on reclamation. The MRP, in certain circumstances, is either outdated, unclear, or in conflict with this submittal. The Permittee agrees to update and clarify the MRP if the Division does not authorize this PMLU request.