



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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## DIVISION OF OIL, GAS & MINING FIELD VISIT FORM TECHNICAL

**Date:** July 23, 1996

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Mine:** Gordon Creek 2, 7, & 8

**File Number:** ACT/007/016

RAI

**DOGM Staff:** Robert Davidson and Dave Darby

**Other Attendees:** Dan Guy, Mel Coonrod, and Pat Axelsen

**Purpose:** Site inspection for soil related events and issues dealing with reclamation at #2 Mine and #8 Mine. The #2 Mine area has no stored topsoil for reclamation. The MRP states that the permittee planned to use material from the #2 Mine lower-pad fill and the #2 Mine access-road fill as substitute topsoil. The #2 Mine area was sampled and identified areas were approved for soil salvage based on DOGM's topsoil guidelines.

The #8 Mine was backfilled and contoured last fall with topsoil placed on approximately the upper ¼ surface. During the winter, the reclaimed area settled requiring new fill and compaction this summer. Fill and compaction took place last week. It was unclear if the topsoil placed on last fall was removed before the new fill was hauled in and compaction took place.

**Observations:** The #2 Mine lower pad area contained a large percentage of coal. When bringing up the coal and soil material, Dan Guy reported that inevitable mixing took place between the coal and soil material. Because of the large coal percentage and mixing, the material was further blended and used as fill against the high walls and cut slopes. There appears to be limited amounts of additional soil material present in the #2 Mine lower pad excavation area. However, the remaining soil appears to be lower quality, consisting mostly of mineral soil lacking structure and humic material.

Additional fill at the #8 Mine and compaction was completed last week, which including regrading of the entire north facing slope from the canyon bottom to the upper fence. It was not evident from surface soil color and texture that topsoil had been redistributed on the surface in the upper ¼ of the surface.



Additional observations included the french drain at the #8 Mine. Also backfilling at the #7 Mine is progressing and consists of several lifts, compaction and a large rock drain.

Subsoil from 7 and 8 being used as fill for #7. I asked Dan about this and he said it was the only material readily available as fill. He agreed that it was a shame to use this good quality soil material as fill. It was being packed into lifts on the upper side.

**Recommendations/Conclusions:** Dan Guy plans on using soil material for the #2 Mine from the upper #2 Mine office pad and road area leading to the #7 and #8 Mines. Dan speculates that little coal contamination is present in these areas and that soil volumes will be sufficient for the #2 Mine area. I requested that a mass balance for soil volumes be performed to calculate inches of soil cover for the reclaimed #2 Mine surface. Thursday we will sample these two areas for substitute soil analysis.

Both Dan and Mel say that the topsoil placed on the #8 Mine area was removed prior to backfilling and compaction of the #8 Mine. After grading the #8 Mine surface, the removed topsoil was then replaced by broadcasting and with further grading.

There was considerable discussion concerning the #8 Mine topsoil storage material. The subsoil material used as surface fill on the #8 Mine appears to be good quality soil for reclamation purposes. The #7 Mine topsoil material stored down on the upper #2 Mine pad appears to be a lesser quality soil. Their request is to use the #8 Mine topsoil in conjunction with the #7 Mine topsoil for soiling the #7 Mine area, thus leaving the subsoil now in place on the surface of the #8 Mine as a substitute topsoil. This request has the purpose of providing good reclamation success for both the #8 Mine and the #7 Mine. Thursday, sampling will include the #8 Mine subsoil surface, the #8 Mine topsoil pile, and the #7 Mine topsoil pile. After analysis using DOGM's topsoil guidelines, an evaluation will be made for this request by comparing data from each of these soils. The MRP will then be amended showing any approved changes concerning the use of salvaged soil materials.

Lastly, Mel requested a summer interim seeding and hydromulching of the #8 Mine after surface roughening to protect the surface during late summer thundershowers. I checked with Susan White and their request met with her approval.

Signature:  on July 23, 1996  
Robert A. Davidson, Reclamation Specialist II (Soils)