



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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Division Director

DIVISION OF OIL GAS & MINING FIELD VISIT FORM TECHNICAL

Date : October 14, 1998

Time: 1:00 to 3:00

Mine: Gordon Creek 2, 7, and 8 Mines

File Number: ACT/007/016, Folder #2

DOGM Staff: Susan White

Other Attendees: Chris Hansen, Canyon Fuel

Purpose:

On June 5, 1997 Mary Ann Wright, Associate Director of Mining approved an amendment to allow summer seeding. The approval stipulated that the site be evaluated for seeding success a year after seeding. This site visit was conducted to satisfy that condition.

Observations:

The 2 Mine site had been recently disturbed by the land owner which resulted in a Notice of Violation. The area which had not been disturbed had good first year vegetative growth and cover. However, only one shrub was observed in the area. The permit commits to having 2000 shrubs per acre for bond release. Poor shrub germination was expected from a summer seeding.

The mine area had approximately 6 areas with heavy concentrations of **Musk Thistle** a noxious weed. Mr. Hansen stated that a person had been clipping and bagging the thistle. No one was seen doing this during the visit. Seed was observed blowing from the flowered plants. This has a potential to become a big threat to the revegetation efforts. The Operator (not Chris Hansen) has been told of the thistle problem numerous times in the past.

The Operator had equipment on site to repair the damage done by the land owner. The topsoil pile was one of the areas with the musk thistle infestation. I told Chris Hansen that the top few inches of soil should be scraped off and disposed of in the refuse pit prior to using.

Recommendations/Conclusions:

The Operator agreed to have a vegetation expert quantitatively evaluate the site for shrub numbers. Depending on those numbers the Operator will transplant or reseed shrubs to augment the summer seeding. The Operator recognizes that this will restart the period of extended responsibility.

The noxious weed problem at the site has potential to negatively affect bond release at this site. A Division Order should be written requiring a weed control program in the permit.

Signature:  Senior Reclamation Biologist on October 19, 1998

cc: Mary Ann Wright
Dave Darby
Joe Helfrich

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