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State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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May 27, 1998

To: File

Thru: Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor, Permitting

Handwritten initials, possibly 'DGH', written in black ink.

From: Priscilla Burton, Soils Reclamation Specialist

RE: Topsoil Stockpile Expansion, Canyon Fuel Company, LLC, Soldier Canyon Mine, ACT/007/018-98B, File #2, Carbon County, Utah

SUMMARY:

Canyon Fuel Co. proposes to enlarge the topsoil stockpile at the mouth of Soldier Canyon with the addition of soils from the developing Dugout Mine. This area is presently planned for the storage of topsoil and fill from the (undeveloped) refuse site. The amendment submitted does not address this change to the narrative of the Mining and Reclamation Plan.

Soils from the Dugout site will be placed within the current disturbed area boundary and will be distinct from the Soldier Canyon topsoil/subsoil piles. The Dugout topsoil pile construction will make use of the entire 4.5 acre site. Immediately adjacent to the southern boundary of the site is an irrigation ditch which must not be disturbed.

The permittee should make the requisite changes to the Mining and Reclamation Plan to present a clear and concise document.

OPERATION PLAN

TOPSOIL AND SUBSOIL

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 817.22; R645-301-230, -234.

Analysis:

Soils from the Dugout site will be placed within the current disturbed area boundary and will be distinct from the Soldier Canyon topsoil/subsoil piles. The Dugout topsoil pile construction will make use of the entire 4.5 acre site. The volume of the material to be imported to the site is not mentioned in this amendment, but can be found in section 231.400, section 232.100 and Appendix 2-6 of the Dugout Mine Plan.

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It is estimated that a total of 16,257 yd³ will be brought to the Soldier Canyon site. The pile will be constructed with maximum slopes of 2:1 and will be approximately ten feet high. The seed mix to be seeded on the site is itemized on page 3-35 of the Dugout Mine Plan. The seed mix includes Indian ricegrass; Western, Slender, and Thickspike wheatgrasses; and a non-native Alfalfa. Section 234.200 of the Dugout Mine Plan describes efforts that will be taken to minimize contamination of the topsoil with cheatgrass seed from the existing Soldier Canyon topsoil piles.

The submitted revision of Page 2-31 of the MRP does not flow with the next page, page 2-32. This amendment also conflicts with previous plans for the site described in section 2.32.4 Refuse Disposal Site (page 2-33), section 2.32 Refuse Disposal Site (pages 2-36 and 2-37), section 2.34 Topsoil Storage (page 2-39 and 2-40), section 5.28 Handling and Disposal of Coal, Overburden, Excess Spoil and Coal Mine Waste (pages 5-45) Site Development (page 5-47), Figure 5-1, and section 5.42.20 Refuse Disposal Site. (Page 5-69).

Findings:

Amendment 98B should be approved with the following stipulation in accordance with:

R645-300-133.100, -121.100, -121.200, The Soldier Canyon Mining and Reclamation Plan must be updated to state that the only use of the 4.5 acre topsoil storage site will be for storage of approved topsoil, subsoil, and boulders from the Dugout Mine site and the Soldier Canyon Mine site.

PRIME FARMLAND

Regulatory reference 30 CFR Sec. 785.16, 823; R645-301-221, -302-300 et seq.

Analysis:

Soils in the location of the topsoil storage site are in the map unit 53, Hernandez family, moist, 1 to 6 percent slopes. This map unit is listed as capability class IIIe-2 when irrigated. Soils within the disturbed area boundary lack irrigation water and do not qualify for prime farmland status. However, immediately adjacent to the southern boundary of the site is an irrigation ditch which must not be disturbed as it is crucial to the use of the farmland to the south.

Findings:

Information provided in the plan in Appendix 2-B is adequate to meet the requirement of this section.

cc: Robert Davidson
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