



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

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August 26, 2001

TO: [REDACTED]
THRU: Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor *DAH*
FROM: *Priscilla* Priscilla Burton, Soils Reclamation Specialist
RE: Technical Field Visit, Transformer Installation, Lodestar Energy Inc., Horizon Mine, C/007/020-AM01A

Other Attendees: Kit Pappas; Trent Hayes

Date & Time: August 23, 2001, 09:30 a.m.- 10:00 a.m.

PURPOSE:

To observe topsoil salvage from the transformer installation site and to locate the site on the surface facilities map in relation to past soil survey information. In particular, to determine the proximity of the site to the buried soil resource noted in Appendix 8-1, 1996 Soil Salvages Practices report by Earth Fax.

OBSERVATIONS:

The area to be disturbed is 12' x 20'. The location on Plate 3-1 Surface Facilities map is beginning immediately southeast of the fifth bent of the stacker belt and extending halfway to the sixth bent.

A ground wire buried about 12-inches below the surface was encountered which proves that the ground was previously disturbed. A grove of trees immediately adjacent to the site would indicate that it is right on the edge of undisturbed ground. Approximately 15-inches of soil was exposed in the cut bank below the trees. A and B horizons had been salvaged from this small area.

TECHNICAL FIELD VISIT

At the topsoil pile, it was very evident which portion of the pile had been disturbed in 1999. There was a distinct difference in vegetation cover and density between the farthest, northern portion of the pile which was thickly covered with vetches and grasses and the southern end of the pile. The southern end of the pile did have vetch and grasses coming along, and in a couple more years, it will resemble the northern end of the pile.

Grasses and vetches were noted thickly growing around the portal in the backfill. This area was not seeded and the growth of the vegetation supports the Division's contention that the lost topsoil from the topsoil pile was used as backfill around the portals.

Topsoil from the transformer site had been spread out on the pad in front of the diversion ditch around the pile. Mr. Pappas indicated that this mistake would be corrected and the soil salvaged from the transformer would be placed on the topsoil pile.

RECOMMENDATIONS/CONCLUSIONS:

The transformer site is on disturbed ground immediately adjacent to an undisturbed grove of trees.

The vegetation on the topsoil pile is coming in nicely. If the Permittee wishes to reseed the pile this fall, then I recommend that the topsoil pile is only disturbed with a rake and not disturbed by equipment roughening.

cc: Kit Pappas
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