

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

June 30, 2006

TO: Internal File

THRU: D. Wayne Hedberg, Permit Supervisor
Dana Dean, Environmental Scientist/Hydrology, and Team Lead

FROM: Joe Helfrich, Biology and Cultural Resources

RE: Loadout Expansion, Task ID # 2524, Savage Services Corporation, Savage Coal Terminal, C/007/0022

SUMMARY:

On May 16, 2006 the Division received an application to expand the Savage Coal Terminal. The expansion will consist of 6.6 acres of new disturbed area. This will increase the disturbance to 128.89 acres or 5.13% of the disturbed area. Since the preparation plant is to be restarted, a new separation facility will be required to replace the dismantled thickener. This amendment is intended to permit an area in the undisturbed NW corner of the Coal Terminal property that will include four settling ponds where minus 28-mesh coal will settle out and allow effluent water to be decanted for return to the coal cleaning plant. This memo will include a review of the Cultural Resource and Biology sections of the regulations.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: Pub. L 95-87 Section's 507(b), 508(a), and 516(b), 30 CFR 783., ET. AL.

HISTORIC AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 783.12, R645-301-411.

Analysis:

Historic and Archaeological information is provided for in section 5.0 of the approved Mining and Reclamation Plan, (MRP). Cultural Resources Studies include a Cultural Resources Literature Review and a Summary and a Field Survey. Plate 5-1 includes the area surveyed, which is basically the present day permit area as noted on plate 1-1.

Findings

The information provided is adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

VEGETATION RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 783.19, R645-301-320.

Analysis:

Vegetation resource information is provided for in section 9 of the approved MRP. The information includes the proposed disturbed area as noted on plate 8-1 of the application and plate 9-1 of the approve MRP. Section 9.4 page 9-19b of the MRP needs to include a current list of threatened and endangered plant species for the proposed disturbed area and a statement regarding the presence or absence of any of the listed species.

Findings

The information provided is not adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations. Prior to approval the applicant needs to provide the following in accordance with:

R645-301-320, section 9.4 page 9-19b of the MRP needs to include a current list of threatened and endangered plant species for the proposed disturbed area and a statement regarding the presence or absence of any of the listed species.

FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 784.21, R645-301-322.

Analysis:

Fish and Wildlife Resource Information is provided for in section 10 of the approved MRP. Section 9.4 page 9-19b of the MRP needs to include a current list of threatened and endangered wildlife species for the proposed disturbed area and a statement regarding the presence or absence of any of the listed species.

Findings

The information provided is not adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations. Prior to approval the applicant needs to provide the following in accordance with:

R645-301-322, Section 9.4 page 9-19b of the MRP needs to include a current list of threatened and endangered wildlife species for the proposed disturbed area and a statement regarding the presence or absence of any of the listed species.

OPERATION PLAN

FISH AND WILDLIFE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.21, 817.97, R645-301-322, -301-333, -301-342, -301-358.

Analysis:

Protection and Enhancement Plan

A protection and enhancement plan is provided for in section 3.4.5 of the approved MRP.

Endangered and Threatened Species

Section 9.4 page 9-19b of the MRP needs to be updated to include a current list of Threatened and Endangered plant and wildlife species for the proposed lease addition areas and a short narrative about the existence of those species listed for the area where the proposed activities are located. The application also needs to include calculations that demonstrate the amount of water consumed from mining activities in acre-feet per year. This information is required for the Colorado Fish Recovery program to ensure compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

Bald and Golden Eagles

There are no Bald or Golden eagles nesting within the proposed disturbed area. Bald Eagles may pass through or roost along the Price River during the winter months and or periods of migration.

Wetlands and Habitats of Unusually High Value for Fish and Wildlife

There are no wetlands or habitats of unusually high value for fish and wildlife located within the proposed disturbed area.

Findings:

The information provided is not adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations. Prior to approval the applicant needs to provide the following in accordance with:

R645-301-322, -301-333, -301-342, -301-358, Section 9.4 page 9-19b of the MRP needs to be updated to include a current list of Threatened and Endangered plant and wildlife species for the proposed lease addition areas and a short narrative about the existence of those species listed for the area where the proposed activities are located. This deficiency was noted in the previous section. The application also needs to include calculations that demonstrate the amount of water consumed from mining activities in acre-feet per year. This information is required for the Colorado Fish Recovery program to ensure compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

VEGETATION

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-330, -301-331, -301-332.

Analysis:

The vegetative community where the proposed ponds are located is identified generally as Salt Desert as noted on plate 9-1. This community includes grease wood, mat saltbush, shadscale and salt grass. Upon completion of the ponds plate 9-1 should be updated to reflect the current disturbed areas and vegetative communities within the permit area.

Findings:

The information provided is adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

RECLAMATION PLAN

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Regulatory Reference: PL 95-87 Sec. 515 and 516, 30 CFR Sec. 784.13, 784.14, 784.15, 784.16, 784.17, 784.18, 784.19, 784.20, 784.21, 784.22, 784.23, 784.24, 784.25, 784.26, R645-301-231, -301-233, -301-322, -301-323, -301-331, -301-333, -301-341, -301-342, -301-411, -301-412, -301-422, -301-512, -301-513, -301-521, -301-522, -301-525, -301-526, -301-527, -301-528, -301-529, -301-531, -301-533, -301-534, -301-536, -301-537, -301-542, -301-623, -301-624, -301-625, -301-626, -301-631, -301-632, -301-731, -301-723, -301-724, -301-725, -301-726, -301-728, -301-729, -301-731, -301-732, -301-733, -301-746, -301-764, -301-830.

Analysis:

Section 3.2.1.2 of the MRP needs to be updated to reflect the current status of operations. Section 3.5 includes the reclamation procedures for the disturbed areas. Table 3-2b on page 3-60 lists the seed mix for the area where the ponds are located.

Findings:

The information provided is adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 817.97, R645-301-333, -301-342, -301-358.

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Analysis:

Section 3.4.5 of the MRP describes the measures to be taken for the protection of fish wildlife and related environmental values.

Findings:

The information provided is adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

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:

Section 3.5.5.2 of the MRP describes the seeding of the reclaimed areas.

Revegetation: General Requirements

A brief narrative describing the reclamation of the ponds should be added to page 3-54b section 3.3.5.3.1 of the MRP.

Revegetation: Timing

The schedule for reclamation is described on page 3-63 section 3.5.6 of the MRP. It includes the removal of structures, regarding, topsoil placement, seeding and mulching. Seeding and mulching are scheduled in the fall, after October 15th. These reclamation practices are described in sections 3.5.5.2 and 3.5.5.3 of the MRP.

Revegetation: Standards For Success

Revegetation success is described in section 3.5.5.4 of the MRP. Page 3-62b should be revised to include the lowland reference area.

Findings:

The information provided is not adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations. Prior to approval the applicant needs to provide the following in accordance with:

R645-301-244, -301-353, -301-354, -301-355, -301-356, -302-280, -302-281, -302-282, -302-283, -302-284, A brief narrative describing the reclamation of the ponds should be added to page 3-54b section 3.3.5.3.1 of the MRP. Page 3-62b should be revised to include the lowland reference area.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The application is not recommended for approval at this time.

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