

# TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

## Utah Coal Regulatory Program

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August 31, 2006

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TO: Internal File

THRU:  D. Wayne Hedberg, Permit Supervisor   
Dana Dean, P.E., Team Lead

FROM:  Joe Helfrich, Biology and Cultural Resources

RE: Loadout Expansion, Task ID # 2613, 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. On August 23, 2006 the Division received a response to the deficiencies enumerated in the review of the May 16 submittal. 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 performed by Utah Archaeological

Research Corporation on June 9, 1980. Plate 5-1 includes the area surveyed, which is basically the present day permit area as noted on plate 1-1. The results of the survey indicated that no prehistoric or historic cultural resources existed within the permit area and the National Register of Historic Places listed no properties within the project boundary. By way of "E" mail correspondence the SHPO has concurred with the Division's findings. A copy of the "E" mail correspondence has been filed with the application.

**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 includes a current list of threatened and endangered plant species for the proposed disturbed area. According to the survey performed by Mt. Nebo Scientific there are no T & E species present in the proposed disturbed area.

**Findings:**

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

**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 includes a current list of threatened and endangered wildlife species for the proposed disturbed area. According to the survey performed by Mt. Nebo Scientific there are no T & E species present in the proposed disturbed area.

**Findings:**

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

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## 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 has been 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 has been added to the text. The application also includes calculations that demonstrate the amount of water consumed from mining activities in acre-feet per year. Table 3-4 includes the criterion and calculations for the consumption of water for the mining operation. It is estimated at 55.92-Acre Feet Per Year. Consultation with Dian Whittington, USFWS, by way of "E" mail correspondence has been included in the application.

##### 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 adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

## 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 has been 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. The lowland reference area as per consultation with the applicant and Mt. Nebo Scientific has been relocated as shown on plate 3-1.

**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.

**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.

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**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 narrative describing the reclamation of the ponds has been 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 15<sup>th</sup>. 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 has been revised to include the lowland reference area.

**Findings:**

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