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April 25, 1989

TO: Richard V. Smith, Acting Permit Supervisor
FROM: Henry Sauer, Reclamation Soils Specialist *HS*
RE: Vegetation Assessment of the Topsoil Storage Areas,
Andalex Resources, Inc., Wildcat Loadout Facility,
PRO/007/033, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

Synopsis

The topsoil stockpiles were qualitatively assessed (species identification, estimation of species composition, vegetative trend estimate) during an on-site visit on April 12, 1989, by Brent Stettler, Reclamation Biologist, and Henry Sauer, Reclamation Soils Specialist for the Division. The purpose of the vegetation assessment was to determine whether reseeding was necessary to adequately protect the stockpiles from wind and water erosion and prevent further contamination by weed species.

Analysis

Topsoil stockpiles A-D were seeded approximately two to three years ago (verbal communication with Michael Glasson, Environmental Specialist for Andalex Resources, Inc.). It is unclear as to the seed mixture utilized and seedbed preparation and planting methods employed at that time. However, it is the assumption of Mr. Glasson that the final reclamation seed mixture was used and seed was broadcasted.

Topsoil stockpiles A-D were determined to have a low percentage of desirable perennial species and a high percentage of undesirable annuals (i.e., Koshia, Cheatgrass, etc.). It is the expressed opinion of the Division that the vegetative trend is towards complete dominance by undesirable weed species.

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Topsoil stockpile E was determined to have numerous desirable species in ample proportion to forego further reseeding at this time. Spot seeding of this pile in areas devoid of vegetation may improve the establishment of desirable species.

Recomendations

The operator must reseed Topsoil Stockpiles A-D by November 1, 1989. The reseeding efforts should be accomplished under the direct supervision of the Division.

djh
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