



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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## DIVISION OF OIL GAS & MINING FIELD VISIT FORM TECHNICAL

**Date :** May 30, 1996

**Time:** 6:00 am to 4:45 pm

**Mine:** Willow Creek, Castle Gate Crandall Canyon, Hiawatha, & Gordon Creek 2,7,8

**File Number:** ACT/007/038, ACT/007/004, ACT/007/011, ACT/007/016

**DOGM Staff:** Robert Davidson and Susan White

**Other Attendees:** Ben Grimes, Johnny Papas, Gary Gray, Dan Guy, & Mel Coonrod

### Purpose:

Site inspection for soil salvage compliance in new disturbance areas at Willow Creek. Check on reclamation of Pond #4 at Hiawatha, including reclamation of soil borrow area; also check on compliance of new soil borrow areas. Site visit concerning substitute topsoil issues at #2 mine at Gordon Creek.

### Observations:

- As of May 30, 1996, there are approximately 200 loads of soil left to reach 92000 yd<sup>3</sup> of soil in stockpile at Willow Creek. All soil disturbance in conveyor belt expansion area has been salvaged to Willow Creek stockpile. They are salvaging "undisturbed soils" in new disturbance areas at Willow Creek. Talked at length with Johnny Papas on Division Order to salvage soils in School House Canyon. Pat Johnston was sent home today, even though they were still salvaging soils.
- Visited Castle Gate Crandall Canyon. Looked at soil and revegetation efforts on middle pad - poor success. Looks rocky and dry - possible poor soil moisture retention. Walked up reclaimed road to upper pad area. Sections in road had poor plant establishment - looks like compaction problem, although soils this spring were soft and spongy while walking. Upper pad well vegetated and lush with growth - knee high.
- Hiawatha has completed soiling Pond #4. The soil borrow pit area has been re-contoured and ripped with boulder placement. There has been a token effort to temporarily seed Pond #4 with grain during this growing season, but most growth is Russian Thistle and lambs quarter on slopes in center of pond. Discussed with Gary to apply hay mulch, then

roughen surface while crimping in straw, ripping on contour at irregular intervals, then seed. Same for borrow area reclamation.

- Gordon Creek 2,7,8 were working on out slope of mine #2 lower pad sections. Bringing up soil, coal, and garbage. Separating materials and stockpiling soil for surface reclamation. Coal, refuse, and rocky material will be used as fill against high walls. The soil does have some coal contamination, but will try to minimize at less than 20% approximately. Looked at #8 mine. There has been some settling against high wall during the winter. Will have to remove topsoil, fill, compact, and replace topsoil prior to surface roughening and seeding.

**Recommendations/Conclusions:**

- Willow creek will continue to salvage new soil until they reach 92000 yd<sup>3</sup> in stockpile. If they are not done with surface disturbance, we will have to remind them of their commitment to salvage 30 inches of soil on disturbed areas.
- Hiawatha will look to Paul Baker this fall to confirm reclamation efforts for re-vegetating pond #4 using suggested techniques discussed by Susan and myself.
- Gordon Creek 2,7,8 need continued help in identifying acceptable substitute topsoil while excavating pad at mine #2.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



on May 31, 1996

Robert A. Davidson, Reclamation Specialist II (Soils)