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November 18, 1997

TO: File

THRU: Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor

FROM: Paul Baker, Reclamation Biologist

RE: Alternative Topsoil Borrow Areas, Nevada Electric Investment Company, Wellington Preparation Plant, ACT/007/038-97MT, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

**SUMMARY:**

Nevada Electric Investment Company has proposed to change the topsoil borrow areas for covering refuse at the Wellington Preparation Plant. The applicant does not intend to actually use the borrow sites but must have them for a worst-case scenario contingency.

The application and current operation and reclamation plan do not have cultural resources information about these areas, so, if the sites are to be disturbed, it will be necessary to collect baseline cultural resources information. The shadscale/galleta revegetation reference area is in borrow area D, and this reference area will need to be changed if the area is actually disturbed.

**TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:**

**ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INFORMATION**

**CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES INFORMATION**

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-411.140

**Analysis:**

The application includes no new cultural resource information. The existing

operation and reclamation plan contains no information from actual surveys, but it quotes correspondence from the Division of State History and from the Division indicating the plan is in compliance with these regulations and that it is unlikely there are any cultural resources within the permit area.

The applicant does not intend to actually disturb the proposed topsoil borrow areas, so performing a survey and submitting the information as part of this application is not necessary. However, the applicant needs to commit to provide information in compliance with R645-301-411.140 and obtain a clearance from the Division of State History before any undisturbed sites are disturbed.

**Findings:**

Information provided in the proposed amendment is not considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section. Prior to approval, the applicant must provide the following in accordance with:

**R645-301-411.140**, The applicant needs to commit to provide cultural resource information before undisturbed areas are disturbed.

**VEGETATION RESOURCE INFORMATION**

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-321

**Analysis:**

Most of the area that would be disturbed by the proposed operation contains a shadscale/galleta community, but Indian ricegrass and sagebrush/galleta communities also exist on the east side of the Price River. Vegetation information in the existing operation and reclamation plan is adequate for these areas.

The shadscale/galleta reference area is within proposed borrow area D. Since the applicant does not intend to actually use this borrow area, it is not necessary to move the reference area at this time. However, if it becomes necessary to use the borrow area, the applicant will need to find another reference area in the same vegetation community. The plan should contain a commitment to this effect.

The revegetation plan in the existing operation and reclamation plan contains adequate plans for revegetating the areas that may be disturbed.

**Findings:**

Information provided in the proposed amendment is not considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section. Prior to approval, the applicant must provide the following in accordance with:

**R645-301-341**, The application needs to contain a commitment to the effect that the shadscale/galleta reference area will be changed if borrow area D is disturbed.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

If the proposed topsoil borrow areas are ever disturbed, the applicant will need to provide additional cultural resources information and to propose changing the shadscale/galleta reference area. The plan contains vegetation resource information about the areas proposed to be disturbed, and biology portions of the reclamation plan are adequate.