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**TO:** Paul Baker **DATE:** 12-7-00

**DEPT:** UDOGM **PAGES:** 2  
(INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET)

**FROM:** Vicky Miller

**FAX No.:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SUBJECT:** CRANDALL CANYON TEST PLOT TEXT

**COMMENTS:**

See if I have given the right impression  
of what your field report says.

THANKS  
Vicky

see text between ++++ lines.

The results of the soil sampling program indicate that the soils west of Shaft No. 2 and east of Shaft No. 1 (lower pad area) contain as much as 60% rock in the upper 12 to 18 inches of soil. At the time of the sampling program, vegetation appeared to be very sparse in the areas where excessive coarse fragments were found in the soils of the lower pad. Additionally, a soil sample (EF-1-3) was obtained from test pit EF-1 at a depth of 30" to 48" below ground surface, contained selenium at a concentration of 0.11 mg/kg. This concentration slightly exceeds the maximum allowable concentration of selenium, 0.10 mg/kg, as put forth in current UDOGM guidelines.

The current reclamation plan for this area of the facilities pad includes establishing the reclamation channel near the middle of the lower pad. ~~It is not anticipated that this material will be needed as substitute topsoil, however to avoid using material as substitute topsoil that has elevated selenium concentrations as substitute topsoil,~~ the applicant will sample soils in the lower pad area prior to using it as substitute topsoil for reclamation construction activities. At least three samples will be obtained from the soils in the lower pad. The location of the samples will be chosen based on the vegetation cover and apparent coarseness of the soils. The worst case soils will be sampled and analyzed for the parameters listed above in accordance with recommended UDOGM guidelines.

Soils found to be unacceptable to use as substitute topsoil will be used as backfill against cutslopes. In the unlikely event that none of the soils in the lower pad area are found to be acceptable substitute topsoil, the applicant will consider using the majority of the available topsoil from stockpile No. 2 to cover the area. The 6680 CY of topsoil in stockpile No. 2 would cover approximately 4 acres with 12 inches of topsoil.

The soils present west of Shaft No. 1 and east of the LP tanks (middle and upper pads) appear to sustain moderate vegetative growth. The chemical and physical results of the soil study indicate that these soils could be considered, as substitute topsoil.

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To determine the reason(s) for the apparent less-than-satisfactory establishment of vegetation in the middle and upper pads, a vegetation field study was conducted. ~~For the 1996 study, a test plot area was chosen, gouged and reseeded in an attempt to prove that the soils could produce adequate vegetation to meet revegetative standards. The vegetative cover in the middle and upper pad areas had previously included very few grasses.~~

~~During a technical field visit in October of 2000, the test plot area was measured by vegetation life form in ten one-square-meter quadrats by UDOGM Reclamation Biologist, Paul Baker. The average values were 24% cover by grasses, 21.5% cover by broadleaf forbs, and 0.5% cover by shrubs for a total of 46% cover. A copy of the technical field visit report is located in Appendix 3.7T.~~

~~In the determination of reclamation success in Crandall Canyon, the grass/sage reference area in Barn Canyon will be used for comparison. When the grass/sage reference area was measured in the early 1980's the cover was estimated at 53%. The standard to be met for Crandall Canyon is 90% of 53% or 47.7% with 90% statistical confidence. The difference between the 46% and 47.7% is minimal and the Crandall Canyon site will likely meet the success standard.~~

~~Based on the soils information and the information gathered during the field trials, Paul Baker concluded that the soils in the test plot area should be adequate as growth medium.~~

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Therefore, the suitable topsoil identified in the upper, middle, and lower pad areas will be used to supplement the existing 6680 CY of topsoil and make-up for the shortfall of approximately 18,920 CY of available topsoil for reclamation.

Prior to spreading topsoil, all accessible regraded areas will be scarified to a depth of 18