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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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DIVISION OF OIL GAS & MINING TECHNICAL FIELD VISIT

Date: August 10, 2000
Time: 2:00 to 3:30 PM
DOG M Staff: Paul Baker and Bill Malencik
Other Attendees: Johnny Pappas and Vicky Miller
Re: Crandall Canyon Test Plot, Plateau Mining Company, Willow Creek Mine, ACT/007/038, Internal File

PURPOSE:

To look at the test plot in Crandall Canyon and decide what further monitoring needs to be done. Although Crandall Canyon is a post-law site, there is a limited amount of topsoil available for reclamation. The Division has had some concerns about success of interim revegetation efforts on the substitute soil material. This soil appears to contain a lot of gravel, and it may not have enough water holding capacity. In about 1995, part of the area was gouged and reseeded with the final reclamation seed mix to see how much vegetation would become established.

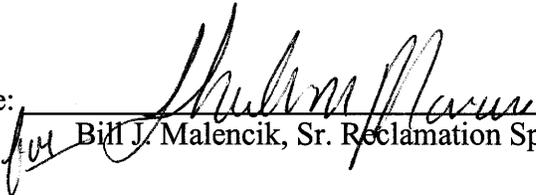
OBSERVATIONS:

I did not take vegetation cover samples, but I estimated vegetation cover on the gouged area to be about 30-40%. I feel the vegetation looks droughted, and, in addition to cover, I have some concerns about productivity.

RECOMMENDATIONS/CONCLUSIONS:

We need to compare this estimated cover value with what has been found in the appropriate reference area. If it looks like there is adequate cover, then the permittee would probably be able to use the substitute soil materials for reclamation. If it appears there may not be adequate cover, more accurate measurements of the vegetation cover and possibly productivity should be made. These could then be compared with baseline data from the reference area.

Signature:  on August 17, 2000
Paul B. Baker, Sr. Reclamation Specialist

Signature:  on August 17, 2000
Bill J. Malencik, Sr. Reclamation Specialist

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cc: Johnny Pappas, Plateau Mining
Vicky Miller, Plateau Mining
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