

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

September 8, 2004

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TO: Internal File

FROM:  Priscilla Burton, Environmental Scientist III, Soils

RE: Gravel Canyon Topsoil Stockpile Reclamation, Plateau Mining Corporation,
Willow Creek Mine, C/007/0038, Task ID #2024

SUMMARY:

The Division previously reviewed task 1962, an application from Plateau Mining Corporation providing three design options for the reclamation of the five acre Gravel Canyon topsoil storage area and associated intermittent stream channel. (received June 17, 2004) Additional information received on August 30, 2004 is the subject of this review.

The Gravel Canyon storage site held 107,639 CY of soil (Table 4.2-1).

Table 3.6-6 presents the reclamation mass balance for three options:

- Option A = net cut of 97,093 cu yds, 10,546 cu yds remain.
- Option B = net cut of 64,977 cu yds, 42,662 cu yds remain.
- Option C = net cut of 37,078 cu yds, 70,000 cu yds remain.

During a site visit on September 1, 2004, Mr. Pappas indicated that the most likely option to be pursued would be Option B. The graded soil remaining will be gouged and seeded. Two composite samples will be taken of the regraded surface before seeding.

The stream channel will be filled with soil and seeded (Appendix 3.6B).

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TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: Pub. L 95-87 Sections 507(b), 508(a), and 516(b); 30 CFR 783., et. al.

SOILS RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 783.21; 30 CFR 817.22; 30 CFR 817.200(c); 30 CFR 823; R645-301-220; R645-301-411.

Analysis:

Two composite samples will be taken of the soils remaining after excavation of the topsoil. The samples will be analyzed for pH, EC, SAR, texture, nitrate-N, available phosphorous and extractable potassium. The analysis will be placed in Appendix 3M. (Section 3.6-4(1), page 3.6-5) This sampling will provide information on the characteristics of the soils remaining after excavation of the topsoil. The plan does not call for fertilizer and none is suggested at this time.

Findings:

The information provided meets the requirements of the Regulations.

RECLAMATION PLAN

MAPS, PLANS, AND CROSS SECTIONS OF RECLAMATION OPERATIONS

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.23; R645-301-323, -301-512, -301-521, -301-542, -301-632, -301-731.

Analysis:

Reclamation Backfilling And Grading Maps

Exhibits 3.4-10 and 3.4-10a provide cross sections and Exhibit 3.4-12 provides station locations for the profile of the Gravel Canyon drainage under reclamation Option A.

Exhibit 3.6-4 (revised 08/23/04) illustrates the reclamation contours and cross-sections for Options B and C being proposed that would leave more soil material in the canyon. This exhibit presents cross-sections, and profiles of the proposed drainage configurations.

The Permittee indicated in a letter dated March 19, 2004 to Daron Haddock that an as-built topography map will be created from aerial photography of Gravel Canyon and the Willow Creek Mine site.

Findings:

The information provided meets the requirements of the Regulations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The application is recommended for approval.