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ACT/007/039

State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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TECHNICAL FIELD VISIT

DATE: September 19, 1997, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
DOGM STAFF: Robert Davidson and Wayne Western
ATTENDANTS: Dan Ferriter, Canyon Fuel Co and Chris Hansen, EarthFax
RE: Stream Embankment Soil Assessment for Culvert Installation, Canyon Fuel Company, LLC, Dugout Mine, ACT/007/039, Carbon County, Utah

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Purpose: Observe topsoil resource along Dugout Creek for the purpose of evaluating topsoil salvage where the proposed culvert will be installed.

Background: The newest submittal for permit approval of the Dugout Mine includes installing a culvert for Dugout Creek within the mine facilities area. Topsoil salvage plans did not include topsoil from the creek embankments prior to installing the culvert. To protect and preserve the soil resource, a verbal commitment was made from Canyon Fuel for salvaging soils from the creek embankments after evaluating the soil resource.

Field Observations:

- Walked Dugout Creek from the lower section to the upper end of the proposed Dugout Mine facility area. Marked the areas where soil salvage could and would not occur.
- In addition, a general commitment was made to salvage any and all soils wherever construction activities necessarily removed or cut into the stream embankments.
- Generally, soil salvage would occur from the south facing and north facing embankments in the lower and upper sections, respectively. There are several sections of the south facing embankments in the lower section where soil salvage would undermine the mine-access road.
- Areas where soil salvage would not occur include the north facing embankments in the lower section, the highly eroded channel in the middle section , and the south facing embankments in the upper section.
- The north facing embankments and hillsides in the lower section are too steep for soil salvage and would create safety and environmental hazards by undermining the toe of the steep slopes. Some discussion centered on possibly covering these slopes with geotextile fabric to protect the soils and demarcate them from construction fills for latter reclamation.
- Similarly, the south facing embankments in the upper section are either too steep or too eroded for soil salvage and consist of some side-cast materials from previous mining activities. For the purpose of culvert installation, leaving these soils in place do not present any environmental hazard.

Recommendations and Conclusions:

- Amend the present submittal for soil salvage along the stream embankments during culvert installation. A map showing areas as demarcated in the field should be included along with soil salvage estimated acreage and volumes.
- During culvert installation, salvage soils as described above. Soils will be temporarily stockpiled and protected from erosion in the approved location of the sediment pond.

Signature: _____ on September 24, 1997
Robert A. Davidson, Soils Reclamation Specialist

cc: Mary Ann Wright
Joe Helfrich
Daron Haddock
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