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

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Michael O. Leavitt
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 Division Director

June 22, 1998

TO: File

THRU: Joe Helfrich, Permit Supervisor *JH*

FROM: Robert Davidson, Soils Reclamation Specialist *RAD*

RE: Temporary Waste Rock Storage Area Amendment for Phase I, Canyon Fuel Company, LLC, Dugout Canyon Mine, ACT/007/039-98B, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

SUMMARY:

On June 18, 1998, Canyon Fuel Company submitted an amendment for revising the currently approved Phase I MRP that includes modified permit text and appendices for a new temporary waste rock storage area. A major change is also proposed for using temporary stored waste rock as structural fill, if the material is found to be non-toxic and non-acid forming. This technical memo is a technical analysis in response to the soils issues.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INFORMATION

SOILS RESOURCE INFORMATION

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

Analysis:

The submittal provides analyses results (August 1995) for roof, floor, and coal from the Rock Canyon and Gilson seams. Selenium, Boron and Acid/Base Potential analyses results meet the Division Guidelines for all samples shown. For the Rock Canyon coal sample, the Sodium Absorption Ratio, pH and the Available Water Capacity are rated poor. Both the Rock Canyon and the Gilson Roof coal samples are sodic since their Exchangeable Sodium Percentages both exceed 15% (i.e., 19% and 33%, respectively).

Findings:

The information provided meets the regulatory requirements of this section.

OPERATION PLAN

TOPSOIL AND SUBSOIL

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 817.22; R645-301-230.

Analysis:

Waste rock generated from the Dugout Canyon Mine will be temporarily stored on the mine site surface as shown on Plate 5-2A and on the Appendix 5-7 map. The underground development waste may be used as fill material during site construction if the rock waste is found to be non-toxic and/or non-acid forming. Waste rock not used as fill material will be disposed of after approximately 1500 CY of material accumulates or ever 4 months, whichever is shorter.

Coal Mine Waste is defined as **Underground Development Waste** and includes waste-rock mixtures of coal, shale, claystone, siltstone, sandstone, limestone, or related materials that are excavated, moved, and disposed of from underground workings in connection with underground coal mining and reclamation activities. Use and handling of Coal Mine Waste during operations must adhere to Utah's Coal Mine Permitting, Engineering Regulations, R645-301-528.320. Before the waste can be used as fill material, either during operations or reclamation, the amendment must be specifically address all regulations governing the handling and disposal of Coal Mine Waste.

Findings:

The permittee must provide the following, prior to approval, in accordance with the requirements of:

R645-301-528.320, Before the underground development waste can be used as fill material, either during operations or reclamation, the amendment must be specific concerning all regulations governing the handling and disposal of Coal Mine Waste. For example, issues that must be resolved and included in the amendment discussion include compaction, diverting runoff drainage, diversion channels, quarterly inspections, stability, certified designs, etc.

RECLAMATION PLAN

TOPSOIL AND SUBSOIL

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 817.22; R645-301-240.

Analysis:

Concerning disposal and/or fate of any Coal Mine Waste, the reclamation plan must adhere to Utah's Coal Mine Permitting, Engineering Regulations, R645-301-553.250, R645-301-553.260, and R645-301-553.300. Therefore, the amendment must specifically discuss each of the regulatory issues concerning the ultimate disposal and handling of all coal mine waste stored and used as construction fill.

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Findings:

The permittee must provide the following, prior to approval, in accordance with the requirements of:

R645-301-553.250, R645-301-553.260, and R645-301-553.300, The amendment must specifically discuss each of the regulatory issues concerning the ultimate disposal and handling of all coal mine waste stored and used as construction fill.

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