



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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1027

TECHNICAL FIELD VISIT

DATE: October 23, 1998
DOGM STAFF: Robert Davidson and Sharon Falvey
ATTENDANTS: Dave Shaver and Jean Semborski, Andalex.
RE: Permit Application Package, West Ridge C-Canyon, PRO/07/041, Carbon County, Utah #2

Purpose:

- Photograph and document pre-mining conditions within the ephemeral drainage of "C" Canyon.
- Visit the proposed gravel sites and discuss options concerning salt problems at the Himonas gravel pit.

Background:

- A photo record of "C" canyon does not exist to document the undisturbed ephemeral drainage. Andalex agrees that such a record needs to be part of the PAP. Dave Shaver has photographed the main, left and right fork drainage using digital photography and is in process of developing an appendix for the PAP.
- The Division has major concerns about contamination of native fills and soils within the "C" canyon by the "salty" imported fills from the Himonas gravel-borrow pit. An appendix addendum has been included with the second PAP submittal for an additional source of gravel borrow from the Himonas Gravel Borrow Pit. Quality of fill to be received from the Himonas pit was detailed in the addendum and is rated as fair to poor for salts, sodium, and selenium according to the Division's Guidelines.

Field Observations:

- Photographs accurately depict the ephemeral drainage using digital photography. Photo aspects were in all cases looking up the drainage. Walked and visited many photo points in the main and right fork drainage. The right fork drainage is part of the experimental practices.
- The Himonas pit is located down in the flats, down where Grassy Trail Creek crosses the road. The lower portion of the pit is vegetated by *Sarcobatus vermiculatus* (Greasewood). The upper pit area is vegetated by Sagebrush and grasses. The lower bench area, midpoint within the pit, does contain some Gardner's saltbush. Both Greasewood and saltbush are indicator plants for salty soils. Additional pit observations were provided by Andalex which indicate that there are areas on the upper bench that are not as salt affected as the earlier report indicates.

Recommendations and Conclusions:

- Each photo was taken within visual range of the last photo and will be located and identified on a map. Written documentation will accompany each photo, including identification of the natural "rock dams" that act as grade control breaks.
- Delineate either salt affected or salt free areas within the Himonas pit. Delineation should be three dimensional which includes salt analysis (EC, pH, SAR, Se, & B) by depth for gravel layer inclusions. Any high salt areas or gravel layers should not be used as fill within "C" Canyon to help prevent salt contamination of native fills and soils.

Signature: _____

Robert A. Davidson, Soils Reclamation Specialist

on October 29, 1998