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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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November 16, 2001

TO: Internal File

THRU: Daron R. Haddock, Permit Supervisor *AQRH*
Pamela Grubaugh-Littig, Permit Supervisor *pgl*

FROM: Karl R. Houskeeper, Reclamation Specialist *KRH*
Gregg A. Galecki, Reclamation Specialist *GA*
Priscilla B. Burton, Sr. Reclamation Specialist/Soils *PB*
Susan M. White, Sr. Reclamation Specialist/Biology *SMW*

RE: Technical Field Visit, Midterm Review, West Ridge Resources, Inc., West Ridge Mine, C/007/041

Other Attendees: Daron R. Haddock, DOGM
Wayne H. Western, DOGM
Jim D. Smith, DOGM
Gary Gray, West Ridge Resources, Inc.

Date & Time: November 8, 2001, 9:30 – 12:30

PURPOSE: Midterm Review – Technical Site Visit

OBSERVATIONS:

Coal fines were observed in the undisturbed drainage below the main office. The coal fines are still within the disturbed area. During an inspection on 11/14/2001, Gary Gray and Karl Houskeeper viewed the drainage and felt the fines in the drainage were not airborne from the road as was discussed on the field visit. It was evident that the fines were transported to this location via a storm event. They reviewed the drainage maps and then walked to some of the undisturbed bypass inlets. Both Gary and Karl Houskeeper felt that the probable source was at the undisturbed inlet of UC-JJ. This inlet is adjacent to the coal stockpile. No coal was pushed into this inlet but there was a small amount of coal fines around this area. These coal fines were probably blown there from the coal stockpile area. Gary indicated that he would remove the coal fines from both areas and monitor both of them in the future to determine if this truly is the source.

TECHNICAL FIELD VISIT

During the field visit, several areas were identified that needed interim vegetation established or supplemented. Gary has contacted several seed suppliers and is scheduling a time to hydromulch these areas this fall.

Division order DO00A is still in the process of being resolved. This order addresses surface facilities as-builts. This order also addresses the highwall above the portal access. The highwall concerns and obligations were discussed during the field visit. Also noted during the field visit, was the piping of undisturbed drainage around ASCA Z (office pad). Maps both in the current plan and those submitted with the Division Order do not match what exists in the field. Maps indicate a berm funneling runoff to an oil and grease separator exists, but neither exist in the field.

The sediment pond area was observed and comments and questions about the lack of a 60% sediment level marker were discussed. The operator was made aware of the need for the markers and has committed to installing the 60% sediment level markers in both cells of the sediment pond.

The value of a precipitation gauge and the reporting of this information annually were discussed during the field visit. This information is valuable in determining storm event information and compliance according to the type of storm event. The operator committed to install a precipitation gauge, which was installed and functioning during the inspection on 11/14/2001 following the field visit.

The test plots that were constructed in the Right Fork in 1999 were viewed. These test plots were established in order to evaluate the effects of the geotextile and fill over the existing in-place topsoil resources (the Experimental Practice). The cut and fill areas of the test plots were marked and signed. Vegetation was thick on the fill plots but sparse on the cut slopes. According to the plan, the test plots will be reclaimed in 2004 to implement and test the final reclamation plans for the entire mine site. Reclamation of the test plots to the original contour will form the "compacted by fill, but in-place topsoil storage" plot and the "removed for storage and then replaced topsoil" test plot. In other words, the replacement of the test plot soils will create conditions that compare the Experimental Practice to traditional salvage and replace methods of reclamation. After grading to original contour, reclamation treatments will include treatment with a soil activator, roughening, seeding, mulching, and tackifier. Vegetation monitoring of the test plots will compare the results of plant growth between the "compacted by fill, but in-place topsoil storage" to that of the "removed for storage and then replaced topsoil" plot. Observations will be made for five years (until 2009).

RECOMMENDATIONS/CONCLUSIONS:

Several items that need attention by the operator were identified and a commitment to implement them was received as discussed above. As previously mentioned, the Division Order is still in the process of being resolved. Probably one of the most important issues in the order is the highwall and how the operator proposes to achieve compliance with the coal rules in final reclamation.

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TECHNICAL FIELD VISIT

Photos of this site visit can be found at
<ftp://dogm.nr.state.ut.us/PUB/MINES/Coal/C007/041/Images/11082001/>

cc: All Attendees
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