



State of Utah  
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DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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August 28, 1997

TO: Pam Grubaugh-Littig, Permit Cordinator *pgl*  
THRU: Joe Helfrich, Permit Supervisor *JH*  
FROM: Susan M. White, Senior Reclamation Biologist *SMW*  
RE: Phase III Bond Release, Mountain Coal Company, Huntington #4 Mine,  
ACT/015/004-96A, Folder #3, Emery County, Utah

**Summary**

Mountain Coal Company submitted Application for Phase III Bond Release for the above referenced mine; date received April 2, 1996. A bond release site inspection was conducted June 27, 1996. Mountain Coal Company completed reclamation at its Huntington Canyon No. 4 Mine in the fall of 1985, thus meeting the minimum 10 year liability period in the fall of 1995. On June 27, 1996 the reclaimed sediment pond area did not have established vegetation. An assessment of the reclaimed pond area was again made on August 27, 1997 and the determination was made that the vegetation was established. A recommendation is made to release the final bond for the Huntington No.4 Mine.

**TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:**

**VEGETATION**

**Regulatory Reference:** 30 CFR Sec. 785.18, 817.111, 817.113, 817.114, 817.116; R645-301-244, -301-353, -301-354, -301-355, -301-356, -302-280, -302-281, -302-282, -302-283, -302-284.

**Analysis:**

**Standards for Success.**

The sediment pond was removed in the summer of 1995 and the area seeded. Seedling density on the reclaimed pond area appeared good but not established June 27, 1996. The reseeded area of sediment pond removal does not have to meet the 10 year liability period,

however, it does need to meet other standards such as diverse, effective and permanent. In other words, the area should look like the rest of the site prior to release. The reclaimed pond area was similar to the surrounding area vegetative cover when inspected August 27, 1997.

**Findings:**

The site meets the requirements of this section.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Phase III Bond Release may be approved for the Huntington No. 4 Mine.