INA/015/007

0020

January 27, 1987

TO: Coal File

FROM: Dan Duce, Reclamation Soils Specialist

RE: Hidden Valley Site Visit, January 2, 1987, Final Reclamation Check, California Portland Cement Company, Hidden Valley Mine, INA/015/007, Folder #3, Emery County, Utah

Purpose

On January 2, 1987, Tom Munson and Dan Duce inspected the Hidden Valley mine site. The purpose of the inspection was to check final reclamation of the site and determine if it met the requirements of the reclamation plan filed with the Division.

Findings

Backfilling and grading of the site was acceptable, but concerns exist on the soil stability. Soils used for backfilling and grading were derived from sandstone and alluvial deposits, therefore they are coarse and friable, and have little cohesion properties. At present, the materials are loose and need to settle to increase site stability. The site was mulched with alfalfa hay, but surface coverage may be lacking to prevent excessive erosion during a major rainfall event. The wind during the site visit was strong enough to show the mulch cover was not preventing the soils from blowing. Contour furrows were constructed on the backfill slopes. These were functioning and helping to retain moisture from snow on the slopes. The stability of the furrows will have to be tested with time since they were constructed in these loose, coarse soil materials.

Site stability will depend greatly on revegetation success. Considering the dry climatic conditions of the site and the droughty nature of the sandy soils, a good vegetative cover will likely take several years to establish.

Recommendations

The site will need to be monitored to ensure excesive erosion does not occur while vegetation re-establishes. If erosion does occur, it is imperative affected areas be reseeded and mulched. In the event the site needs to be reseeded, more consideration will need to be taken to ensure stabilization of these loose, coarse-textured materials.

djh

cc: T. Munson
K. Mutz
J. Whitehead

0835R/3