INA/015/007
#3

January 12, 1987

TO: Coal File

FROM: Tom Munson, Reclamation Hydrologist TM

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

Purpose

On January 2, 1987, Dan Duce and Tom Munson 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.

Recommendations

The applicant has recontoured and backfilled the site to acceptable standards. The road leading to the site was ripped, culverts removed, and waterbars installed. The main channel culvert transvesting the site had been removed and the ephemeral channel leading to Ivie Creek was restored in an acceptable manner. The sediment pond discharge structures were removed and an adequate channel was constructed in its place. Sediment controls were installed at the base of the lower seam backfill, adjacent to the main restored channel, and at the mouth of the channel from the lower bench pad leading to Ivie Creek. The wind during the site visit was extremely strong and had blown down a portion of the silt fence material. The silt fences were about 4 to 4.5 feet high and secured at various points with bailing wire attached to the chicken wire backing. The points where the silt fence material was attached to the chicken wire was not holding in the strong wind.. It is recommended that these silt fences as they are reconstructed, be modified in height to about 3 feet and be attached to the chicken wire in more of a continuously secure manner to prevent billowing in the wind.

The soils and vegetation section of the review will be discussed by Dan Duce in a separate memo to file.

Conclusions

This site will have to be watched closely in the future to see that major erosion of the backfilled areas does not occur. The soils are of such a fine texture and composition that they appear very susceptible to erosion, if no vegetative cover or soil structure begins to form, prior to a major rainfall event. The silt fence will have to be checked periodically for competence and clean-out to maintain a good sediment control adjacent to Ivie Creek. The good job of channel reconstruction and riprapping will provide a stable path for runoff waters to traverse the site, leaving erosion of the backfilled and recontoured areas a more important issue in the future.

djh
cc: J. Whitehead
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