



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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DIVISION OF OIL GAS & MINING FIELD VISIT FORM TECHNICAL

Date : November 6, 1996, 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Mine: Hidden Valley Mine

File Number: ACT/015/007 folder #2

DOGMA Staff: Robert Davidson, Susan White, and Sharon Falvey

Other Attendees: Gary Raines, Consol; Tim Kirschbaum, Consol; Stephen Behling, Consol; Leland Sassar, NRCS; and George Cook, NRCS

Purpose:

- Hidden Valley Task Force. Objective - achieve reclamation and vegetation success for bond release.

Observations:

- Meeting note highlights: Consol bought Hidden Valley last year. Surface disturbance is 6.7 acres. Nearing end of 10 year reclamation without achieving vegetation success. The site's average vegetation cover is currently at 7%; need to achieve an average of 15% cover. Construct a revised reclamation plan based on local experience. Reset bond clock. Issues discussed include slope aspect, soil material and lack of coarse fragment and rock, water irrigation and water quality, seeding, transplants, surface roughening to provide water harvesting and micro-climates, August time frame for seeding and transplants, reference site, maintenance issues, and noxious weeds. Main noxious weeds include halogeton being a poor competitor and June grass being a biannual and winter germinator. Squirrel tail grass should be included in seed mix to compete with June grass.
- Field Visit notes: Soil and soil chemistry highlights. The seam above the "A" portal area and residuum material beneath is acidic with a pH of 5.4 and an EC of 7 mmhos/cm. This residuum material is influencing soils throughout the site. In the immediate vicinity of the residuum, no vegetation is growing or germinating. Soils on both the "A" and "B" portal sites are barely calcareous with soils on the west facing "A" portal area heavily influenced on the upper fill. Soils further down the slope are calcareous. Vegetation on the south facing "B" portal fill and flat-bench region is mainly associated with colluvium and alluvium having higher pH values and a calcareous reaction. Other areas in the site having higher vegetation success is associated with surface roughening (e.g., road) and areas providing water harvesting and sediment collection.

Recommendations/Conclusions:

- Provide a calcareous soil cover containing a high percentage of rock while using surface roughening techniques.

Signature: 

Robert A. Davidson, Reclamation Specialist III (Soils)

on November 7, 1996