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September 8, 1998

TO: File

THRU: Joe Helfrich, Permit Supervisor

FROM: Robert Davidson, Reclamation Soil Scientist RAD

RE: A-Seam Terrace Diversion Abandonment Amendment, Consolidation Coal Company, Hidden Valley Mine, ACT/015/007-98A, File #2, Emery County, Utah

SUMMARY:

An amendment to the reclamation plan for Hidden Valley Mine has been received for abandoning the A-seam terrace diversion ditch.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

RECLAMATION PLAN

TOPSOIL AND SUBSOIL

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 817.22; R645-301-240.

Analysis:

The amendment to the reclamation plan proposes to abandon the A-seam terrace diversion ditch until Consol implements phase-2 reclamation for final regrading and reconstructing the A-seam. Several large boulders from the cliff above the A-seam terrace diversion have fallen into the ditch and are partially blocking the flow path. Currently the flow path has been temporarily re-established by hand excavating with a shovel around the largest of these boulders. The amendment states that this diversion will not function as designed in the long term as it continues to fill with fallen rock.

Abandonment of the ditch will allow water to overtop the diversion which will continue to erode the side slope with rivulets and gully formation. The amendment proposes to contain the eroded soil on site. The trapped soil would then be redistributed as part of the future regrading plan. To contain the soil, Consol proposes to raise the height of the existing silt fence

to maintain adequate soil storage volume.

The plan should attempt to maintain the diversion to prevent any further interim erosion of the A-seam side slope. Hand excavation, and/or more drastic interim measures using constructing equipment, should be used until the Consol implements their planned phase-2 reclamation of the A-seam.

Findings:

The permittee must provide the following, prior to approval, in accordance with the requirements of:

R645-301-242.130, The plan should attempt to maintain the diversion to prevent any further interim erosion of the A-seam side slope. Hand excavation, and/or more drastic interim measures using constructing equipment, should be used until the Consol implements their planned phase-2 reclamation of the A-seam.

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