



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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TO: Internal File

FROM: Susan M. White, Senior Reclamation Biologist, Team Lead *SMW*

RE: Pumphouse Area Reclamation, PacifiCorp, Des Bee Dove Mines, ACT/015/017-AM00A

SUMMARY:

The Pumphouse Area reclamation plan was received by the Division May 26, 2000. The pumphouse was constructed sometime between 1971 and 1974. The pumphouse was used until the mid to late 70's, after which in mine water was obtained. The facilities were demolished in late 1999/2000. The area of disturbance is small, approximately 1.5 acres. This memo reviews the biology, hydrology, and engineering sections of the amendment.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS :

RECLAMATION PLAN

POSTMINING LAND USES

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.15, 784.200, 785.16, 817.133; R645-301-412, -301-413, -301-414, -302-270, -302-271, -302-272, -302-273, -302-274, -302-275.

Analysis:

The amendment has not changed the stated postmining land use of wildlife and grazing.

Findings:

The application meets the minimum regulatory requirements of this section.

TECHNICAL MEMO

PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 817.97; R645-301-333, -301-342, -301-358.

Analysis:

Page 4-97 (revised 4/8/98) states that there are no known active aerie territories associated with the project. This statement is not correct. An active nest is located within visual sight of the pumphouse location. However, Section R645-301-300: Biology, Appendix IV, identifies Golden Eagle nest 75 IA in close proximity to the pumphouse but outside the ½ mile buffer zone. Reclamation work conducted in the fall should have no impact on these nests.

Findings:

The application meets the minimum regulatory requirements of this section.

BACKFILLING AND GRADING

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 785.15, 817.102, 817.107; R645-301-234, -301-537, -301-552, -301-553, -302-230, -302-231, -302-232, -302-233.

Analysis:

Backfilling and grading operations are minor. No design has been provided and no design is required. Small amounts of surface coal waste deposits will be buried on site. The road area will be ripped and the berm material used as topsoil. Site photos are provided in Appendix A of R645-301-500, Appendix IV of the application.

Findings:

The application provided meets the minimum regulatory requirements of this section.

HYDROLOGIC INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.14, 784.29, 817.41, 817.42, 817.43, 817.45, 817.49, 817.56, 817.57; R645-301-512, -301-513, -301-514, -301-515, -301-532, -301-533, -301-542, -301-723, -301-724, -301-725, -301-726, -301-728, -301-729, -301-731, -301-733, -301-742, -301-743, -301-750, -301-751, -301-760, -301-761.

Analysis:

Diversions

No diversions are being constructed for the reclamation of the pumphouse area. A minor drainage or swale will be reestablished through the area to complement the surrounding drainage.

Sediment Control Measures

The primary sediment control measures for the pumphouse area is extreme surface roughening as a final surface preparation. Hay or hydromulch will also be used to stabilize the soil surface. Straw bales will be placed downslope and along the mine access road should any runoff occur.

Findings:

Provided the straw bales are installed correctly, the information provided meets the minimum regulatory requirements of this section.

REVEGETATION

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:

General Requirements

The seed mixture is identified in Table 1 of section R645-301-300, Appendix IV. The seed mixture contains a diverse mixture of species native to the site. The mixture contains a warm season grass component. It is advised to plant this portion of the seed mixture just prior to summer rains, usually in June or by mid-July. The seed mixture is either to be broadcast by hand or by a hydroseeder. The Operator should take care if using a hydroseeder, that the seed is in the water slurry as short a time possible, in no case should the seed be in the water longer than a half hour.

Timing

A fall seeding is assumed. The Operator is urged to also conduct a summer seeding with the warm season species.

TECHNICAL MEMO

Mulching and Other Soil Stabilizing Practices

Section 340, of R645-301-300 in Appendix IV states that Certified weed free alfalfa hay will be incorporated into the soil following grading at the rate of 2000 lbs/acre. If seed is applied with a hydroseeder then hydromulch and not hay mulch will be applied at the rate of 1000 lbs./acre with an addition of 500 lbs. tackifier.

Standards for Success

The Operator plans (Section 350 of R645-301-300 in Appendix IV) state that they will, if needed, conduct rill and gullies repair. This portion of the application is not in compliance with the regulations of R645-301-357.300, Husbandry Practices. Rill and gully repair is only allowed under very specific condition without restarting the extended responsibility period. The regulations are as follow:

- 357.360. Highly Erodible Area and Rill and Gully Repair. The repair of highly erodible areas and rills and gullies will not be considered an augmentative practice, and will thus not restart the extended responsibility period, if the affected area as defined in R645-301-357.363 comprises no more than 15% of the disturbed area for the first 20% of the extended responsibility period and if no continuous area to be repaired is larger than one acre.
- 357.361. After the first 20% of the extended responsibility period but prior to the end of the first 60% of the responsibility period or until Phase II bond release, whichever comes first, highly erodible area and rill and gully repair will be considered augmentative, and will thus restart the responsibility period, if the area to be repaired is greater than 3% of the total disturbed area or if a continuous area is larger than one acre.
- 357.362. The extent of the affected area will be determined by the Division in cooperation with the Permittee.
- 357.363. The area affected by the repair of highly erodible areas and rills and gullies is defined as any area that is reseeded as a result of the repair. Also included in the affected areas are interspacial areas of thirty feet or less between repaired rills and gullies. Highly erodible areas are those areas which cannot usually be stabilized by ordinary conservation treatments and if left untreated can cause severe erosion or sediment damage.
- 357.364. The repair and/or treatment of rills and gullies which result from a deficient surface water control or grading plan, as defined by the recurrence of rills and gullies, will be considered an augmentative practice and will thus restart the extended responsibility period.
- 357.365. The Permittee shall demonstrate by specific plans and designs the methods to be used for the treatment of highly erodible areas and rills and gullies. These will be based on a combination of treatments recommended in the Soil Conservation Service Critical Area Planting recommendations, literature recommendations including those found in Appendix C of the Division's "Vegetation Information Guidelines", and other successful practices used at other reclamation sites in the State of Utah. Any treatment practices used will be approved by the Division.

The plan must be change to reflect the current Coal Mining Regulations.

A pinyon-juniper reference area was selected and approved for use as a vegetative standard in 1982. The pinyon-juniper reference area had 30% vegetative cover when measured in 1980.

Findings:

Information provided in the proposed amendment is not considered adequate to meet the minimum requirements of this section. Prior to approval, the Operator must provide the following in accordance with:

R645-301-357.300, all rill and gully repair will require a prior approved plan incorporated in the Mining and Reclamation Plan and a determination by the Division whether or not this activity restarts the period of extended liability.

MAPS, PLANS, AND CROSS SECTIONS OF RECLAMATION OPERATIONS

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.23; R645-301-323, -301-512, -301-521, -301-542, -301-632, -301-731.

Analysis:

Affected Area Boundary Maps

R645-301-500: Map Section of Appendix IV contains two maps, a pre and post reclamation map. The maps show the disturbed area boundary of the pumphouse area in red. The maps are certified by John Christensen, a Licensed Professional Engineer.

Findings:

The information provided meet the minimum regulatory requirements.

RECOMMENDATION:

Prior to approval, the requirements of R645-301-357.300 must be provided as outlined above.