



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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TO: Internal File

FROM: Priscilla Burton, Sr. Reclamation Specialist/Soils *PB*  
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 Ken Wyatt, Sr. Reclamation Specialist/Hydrology *KW*  
 Pete Hess, Sr. Reclamation Specialist/Engineering *PHH by SM*  
 Karl Houskeeper, Reclamation Specialist/Engineering *KRH by SM*

RE: Technical Field Visit, Energy West Mining, Des Bee Dove Mine, C/015/017

**Other Attendees:** Energy West Mining Company Representatives: Carl Pollastro, Chuck Semborski, Guy Davis, and Dennis Oakley

**Date & Time:** July 17, 2001, 9:45 am to 1:00pm.

## PURPOSE:

To review progress towards reclamation of the mine site and observe configuration of the site after the re-mining of approximately 95,000 Tons of coal fines from the main drainage. Re-mining work should be completed the week of July 23, 2001.

## OBSERVATIONS:

A grizzly was used during the re-mining process to separate out rocks, metal, and large debris from the re-mined coal. This material has been placed on the bath house pad. In all, 50-60,000 cu yds of spoil have been placed upon the bath house pad.

Amendments submitted to the Division describing Phase I reclamation remain unchanged by this work. Primary concern of the Energy West Mining Co. is to get Phase I underway this season. Energy West will get Phase I to the Division when the consultant's engineering analysis is completed.

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TECHNICAL FIELD VISIT

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Phase II reclamation, describing reclamation of the site from the Deseret pad and below, will be submitted to the Division in September. Hansen, Allen and Luce, Consultants, will be developing the grading and drainage designs for the Phase II reclamation and Rawlins, Gunnel, & Brown, Consultants, are working on the stability analysis. Hansen, Allen and Luce, have been to the site to survey the area for operational contour maps. Energy West would like to have approval of Phase II in the Fall of 2001. An Energy West employee will be stationed at the site during reclamation. The following reclamation issues are of concern:

- Re-mining has doubled the length of the bathhouse outslope and former substation pad and created slopes that are steeper than 2h:1v.
- Reclamation will utilize the outslope of the bath house pad to cover the refuse piles on the pad. Top 18 inches of soil will not be salvaged.
- Leaving slope breaks of the current reestablished vegetation on the bath house outslope could help reduce the slope length.
- Refuse will be sampled for acid/toxic forming potential in an attempt to show reduced cover will be necessary.
- Raking of the south facing slope to remove coal fines could be attempted. Equipment could reach down 70 feet.
- DOGM personnel mentioned the potential for offsite impacts due to a large storm event washing coal fines downstream into the undisturbed drainage. For the present, a depression will be left at the bottom of the drainage as a storage basin.
- Elimination of the road during Phase II may create access difficulties for repair of erosion.
- What is the quality of the soils in the Beehive pad, the Bath House pad, and the spoil on the outslope of the Deseret pad.
- The concrete structure seen in photo P0002648 (<ftp://dogm.nr.state.ut.us/PUB/MINES/Coal/C015/017/IMAGES/07/17/2001/>) may need to remain in reclamation. The need for these structures in the post-mining land use should be documented.
- The coal and noncoal waste found on the north slope above the tipple (photo P0002654 and P0002655) was discussed. Energy West couldn't remember if this area was within the disturbed area because it may have been considered pre-law and not used since 1977. Upon further review it was determined that this area is within the disturbed area.
- Items of noncoal waste remain in various areas of the site. Many items of noncoal waste mixed into the fill can and will resurface after regrading. The Operator should make every effort to remove all noncoal waste prior to backfilling and grading.

Photos from this field visit may be viewed on the internet at:  
<ftp://dogm.nr.state.ut.us/PUB/MINES/Coal/C015/017/IMAGES/07/17/2001/>

**RECOMMENDATIONS/CONCLUSIONS:**

Re-mining of the coal fines has created a drainage contour which will resemble the undisturbed condition of the canyon. In doing so, slopes have been created which are very steep (also resembling the existing conditions) and may be difficult to maintain in a stable configuration and reestablish vegetation. Energy West Mining personnel should attempt to get all the substitute topsoil possible off the Bath House pad.

cc: All Attendees  
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