



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

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor
Kathleen Clarke
Executive Director
Lowell P. Braxton
Division Director

1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
PO Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801
801-538-5340
801-359-3940 (Fax)
801-538-7223 (TDD)

February 14, 2002

TO: Internal Files

THRU: Daron R. Haddock, Permit Supervisor *DRH*

FROM: Priscilla W. Burton, Sr. Reclamation Specialist/Soils *PWB*

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

Other Attendees:

From Div Oil, Gas, & Mining:

Lowell Braxton, Director
Mary Ann Wright, Associate Director
Pete Hess, Reclamation Engineer
Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor

From Energy West Mining:

Chuck Semborski, Geologist
Dennis Oakley, Environmental Engineer
Kerry Jensen, Surveyor

Date & Time: February 14, 2002, from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

PURPOSE:

To familiarize the Associate Director and Director of DOGM with the Des Bee Dove Mine site and the proposals for Phase 1 and Phase 2 reclamation operations and to observe the reconfiguration of the waste rock stored on the bath house pad.

OBSERVATIONS:

During a briefing on the Phase 1 and 2 plans for the Des Bee Dove Mine site, Mr. Semborski indicated that Phase 1 will take approximately 30 – 40 days and Phase 2 may take five months to complete. Energy West Mining Corp is eager to begin Phase 1 as soon as approval is received.

TECHNICAL FIELD VISIT

Phase 1 reclamation will include removal of the top three feet from the outslope of the Little Dove/Beehive pad to set aside as substitute topsoil. This may generate 1,000 cu yards of substitute topsoil. Where possible, the three drainages will be re-established over bedrock and the pad materials pulled up to form the slopes between the drainages. The surface soil of the final configuration will be evaluated for substitute topsoil potential in order to save the 1,000 cu yards previously salvaged and stored from the Little Dove/Beehive outslope for use in Phase 2.

Phase 2 reclamation plans will be resubmitted to the Division when information on mass balance is received from the consulting firm (Hansen, Allen and Luce). The Phase 2 submittal will also supply the Division with revised cross-sections and a map identifying soil placement and slopes of 2h:1v or less. Material excavated from the proposed trench in the bathhouse pad will be used as substitute topsoil. The channel will be elevated using a soil/refuse mix to get the required 90-lbs/cu ft compaction. As outlined by Mr. Semborski, the major issue for Phase 2 reclamation is adequate cover over the coal.

Mr. Haddock asked whether Phase 1 and Phase 2 could be combined so as to facilitate movement of refuse and cover material between the locations. Mr. Semborski indicated that Energy West did not want to move material between the Phase 1 and Phase 2 sites and did not want to delay the activity at Phase 1 by waiting for the Phase 2 submittal to be reviewed. Furthermore, Mr. Semborski indicated that there was no room for placement of refuse at the Phase 1 site. Mr. Hess produced cross-sections suggesting that there may be room for a maximum of 1,500 cubic yards of refuse at the Phase 1 site. As Mr. Semborski pointed out, this figure would not represent the volume of waste disposed of, since the waste must be mixed with soil to achieve the required 90-lbs/cu ft. (Mr. Semborski indicated that the loose coal waste has a density of 60-lbs/cu ft. Compacted it can be brought to a density of 80-lbs/cu ft; however, 90-lbs/cu ft are required for slope stability.) Ms. Burton stated that even the disposal of 1,000 cubic yards of refuse at the Phase 1 site would provide double the volume of substitute topsoil to be generated from that site.

We then drove to the site and observed the terrain. A track hoe was moving the waste rock on the bathhouse bench. The cement structures in the tipple area had been removed. The road from the Deseret pad to the Beehive pad was rendered impassable by recent construction activity.

RECOMMENDATIONS/CONCLUSIONS:

The briefing by Mr. Semborski and site visit to Des Bee Dove Mine was very enlightening for all attendees. The review of Phase 1 is underway and the Division is waiting to receive Phase 2 information to begin that review.