

February 28, 2003

TO: Internal File

THRU: Daron R. Haddock, Permit Supervisor

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

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

Other Attendees:

Mr. Chuck Semborski and Mr. Dennis Oakley, Energy West Corp.
Mr. Jim Smith, DOGM

Date & Time: February 26, 2003, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

PURPOSE:

To observe the progress of Phase II reclamation.

OBSERVATIONS:

Three scrapers, each with 27-yard capacity, were removing refuse from the slope above the tipple yard and depositing it on the refuse fill against the bathhouse cutslope. Although we did not observe placement of the refuse, Mr. Oakley indicated that after each scraper unloaded material, a trackhoe and rubber tired dozer were driving over the fill to compact the refuse. The surface of the compacted refuse was hummocky. The moist snow on the ground was helping with the compaction.

TECHNICAL FIELD VISIT

Below the sandstone cliff that towers above the Deseret pad, boulders had been placed to create a plunge pool for the flow over the cliff. Designs for the plunge pool are found in the Appendix A of R645-301-700 Appendix XV page 8 of 21. Mr. Oakley indicated that six-foot diameter rock had been keyed into the bedrock. Conditions during the field visit were cold and snowy and not optimum for verifying the construction of the plunge pool. Although Energy West engineers will provide certified as-builts, it is recommended that a Division engineer assess the construction of the boulder field before the area becomes inaccessible to equipment.

Sadly, on the cliff face above this plunge pool, one of the contractor's employees had scratched his initials into the rock. The cliff face is Utah Power & Light Co. real estate. Apparently, the landowner is willing to accept this graffiti, as there was no indication from Energy West representatives that it would be removed. I could not think of a state regulation that would require removal other than R645-300-142, which indicates that reclamation should be conducted only as described in the approved application.

A trackhoe was being used to place large boulders against the south slope of the drainage to protect the slope against erosion. In this process, the trackhoe was moving up and down the snow-covered substitute topsoil on the slope. Compaction of the substitute topsoil is likely, but should be relieved by gouging of the surface. The approved plan indicates that rocks and boulders will be placed at random on the slopes and that rock distribution will provide an esthetic appearance as well as slope containment (pg 6 of R645-301-500 App XV). Therefore, Energy West was going to scatter soil over the rock walls to make them blend in with the slope.

A stockpile of the best looking material that was scraped off of the cliff below the Beehive access road was stored on the Tipple pad below for use as fill in the lower section of the drainage (see Reclamation Procedure page 8 of Section R645-301-500 Appendix XV). Mr. Oakley will take samples of the material for analysis of acid/toxic forming properties and provide the Division with the volume of the material now stored in the pile.

To date, the access road reclamation had consumed 1690 cu yds of substitute topsoil (900 CY from the Phase 1 and 790 CY from Change Order 1). About 75 lbs/ac of super phosphate had been applied to the access road along with one ton hay/ac prior to gouging.

A stockpile of substitute topsoil material was against the south side of the drainage on the access road. Energy West employees were going to sample the substitute topsoil and provide an estimate of the yardage. All this material will be used against the south side of the drainage above and around the tipple yard. Energy West employees were aware that moving the topsoil when it was wet will create compaction.

A final version of the change order that was reviewed by the Division on February 10, 2003 for the additional substitute topsoil was requested. Both Energy West representatives agreed to submit the final change order to the Division.

Photos from this date can be viewed under the folder name 02262003 at:
<ftp://ogm.utah.gov/PUB/MINES/coal/Images/015/017>

RECOMMENDATIONS/CONCLUSIONS:

Although Energy West engineers will provide certified as-builts, it is recommended that Division staff qualified in engineering assess the construction of the plunge pool before the area becomes inaccessible to equipment.