

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

May 9, 2005

TO: Internal File

THRU: Pamela Grubaugh-Littig, Permit Supervisor

THRU: Jim Smith, Team Lead

FROM: Joe Helfrich, Biologist

RE: Appendix XIV Phase Three Reclamation Area, Energy West Mining Co., Des Bee Dove Mine, C/015/0017, Task ID #2176

SUMMARY:

On March 8, 2005 the Division received an application that describes the reclamation of the Des Bee Dove sediment pond. The sediment pond area covers approximately 6.9 acres and includes an access road. The pond is separated from the mine disturbed area by an undisturbed ephemeral drainage. This memo will include a review of the Biology sections of the regulations.

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TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

RECLAMATION PLAN

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Regulatory Reference: PL 95-87 Sec. 515 and 516; 30 CFR Sec. 784.13, 784.14, 784.15, 784.16, 784.17, 784.18, 784.19, 784.20, 784.21, 784.22, 784.23, 784.24, 784.25, 784.26; R645-301-231, -301-233, -301-322, -301-323, -301-331, -301-333, -301-341, -301-342, -301-411, -301-412, -301-422, -301-512, -301-513, -301-521, -301-522, -301-525, -301-526, -301-527, -301-528, -301-529, -301-531, -301-533, -301-534, -301-536, -301-537, -301-542, -301-623, -301-624, -301-625, -301-626, -301-631, -301-632, -301-731, -301-723, -301-724, -301-725, -301-726, -301-728, -301-729, -301-731, -301-732, -301-733, -301-746, -301-764, -301-830.

Analysis:

The reclamation of the sediment pond and access road is described in the Engineering section of the MRP, (R645-301-500).

Findings:

The information provided is adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

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 post mining land uses for the reclaimed sediment pond and associated road are described in volume 2 pages 4-42 through 4-44 of the MRP as being industry, grazing, and wildlife habitat. According to the text in the MRP these are consistent with the historical land uses.

Findings:

The information provided is adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES

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

Analysis:

The application includes the following measures to be taken during reclamation:

1. Rock piles will be formed for small mammal habitat.
2. The approved seed mix is prescribed for wildlife.
3. Pocking will limit erosion, retain moisture and create micro niches for wildlife.
4. Vegetation enhancements will include the addition of mulch and tackifier.

Findings:

The information provided is adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

ROAD SYSTEMS AND OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 701.5, 784.24, 817.150, 817.151; R645-100-200, -301-513, -301-521, -301-527, -301-534, -301-537, -301-732.

Analysis:

Reclamation

The access road to the sediment pond will be reclaimed in accordance with the same techniques utilized for the pond as described in the application and section R645-301-500 of the MRP.

Retention

Findings:

The information provided is adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

CONTEMPORANEOUS RECLAMATION

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Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 785.18, 817.100; R645-301-352, -301-553, -302-280, -302-281, -302-282, -302-283, -302-284.

Analysis:

General

Reclamation of the sediment pond and associated access road will occur as contemporaneously as practicable with the mining operations. The first normal planting period following approval of the application would be the fall of 2005.

Findings:

The information provided is adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

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:

Revegetation: General Requirements

Table 3-1 of the application describes the seed mix to be used in the reclamation of the sediment pond and associated access road. The seed mix includes species native to the area that should provide a diverse, effective permanent cover for the reclaimed area.

Revegetation: Timing

The application indicates that seeding will take place following contouring and pocking. Anticipating reclamation activities commencing during October of 2005, seeding practices should be initiated by mid to late October. This would be an optimum time for the establishment of vegetation.

Revegetation: Mulching and Other Soil Stabilizing Practices

According to the application states that “a certified weed free hay mulch will be incorporated into the soil following contouring”.

Revegetation: Standards For Success

According to the application the standards for success for the road and sediment pond will at least be equal to 90% with a 90% confidence level to that of the reference area.

Findings:

The information provided is adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

STABILIZATION OF SURFACE AREAS

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 817.95; R645-301-244.

Analysis:

According to the application surface areas will be stabilized by pocking, adding a hay mulch and tackifier as described on page 2 of the application and section R645-301-700 of the MRP.

Findings:

The information provided is adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

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:

Reclamation Treatments Maps

Map 300-1, Revegetation Area represents the final topography of the reclaimed sediment pond

Findings:

The information provided is adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

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RECOMMENDATIONS:

The application is recommended for approval.

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