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# TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

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January 26, 2012

TO: Internal File

THRU: Steve Christensen, Lead *SC*

FROM: Joe Helfrich, Biology *JH*

RE: Des Bee Dove Midterm Review, PacifiCorp, Des Bee Dove Mine, C/015/0017, WG3982

## SUMMARY:

On December 21, 2011 the Division commenced the midterm review of the Des Bee Dove mine. This is a reclaimed site, final reclamation was completed in 2003, and the sediment pond was reclaimed in 2006. On November 15, 2011 a site visit was conducted by Amanda Daniels, Ken Hoffman and Joe Helfrich from the Division, Ken Fleck from PacifiCorp accompanied the Division staff. The site was stable and the vegetation, (in the eighth year of the liability period), appeared to be well established. There are no commitments for this site.

**TECHNICAL MEMO**

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**TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:**

**GENERAL CONTENTS**

**REPORTING OF TECHNICAL DATA**

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 777.13; R645-301-130.

**Analysis:**

According to the information provided in the 2010 annual report, the year 4 vegetation monitoring for the reclaimed sediment pond and access road was completed by Dr. Patrick Collins of Mt. Nebo Scientific in 2010. The reclaimed area and the Saltbush shrub reference area were monitored for cover, frequency and composition, density and species diversity. Sample adequacy was also calculated. Photographs and sample location maps were provided in the report. The reclaimed sediment pond area had a total living cover estimated at 41.63%, and a density of 2,870 woody species per acre. The reclaimed access road had a total living cover of 36.13% and a density of 1,612 woody species per acre. The saltbush shrub reference area had a total living cover of 35.13% and a density of 3,695 species per acre. Two indices were used to measure diversity. Both indices indicated that the reclaimed areas were more diverse than the reference area. Dr. Collins concluded that even though the reclaimed areas are not completely meeting the success standards at the present time, the site is progressing well and should meet success standards by final bond release (year 10).

Regarding raptor surveys, "The annual report included a raptor survey in the confidential section. The survey included nest location and activity data and an associated map depicting flight lines and nest locations. The survey did not include the Des Bee Dove permit area. The mine is currently inactive, so no mining related disturbance occurred in 2010. However, if any activities occur in the future which may cause disturbance to nesting raptors, a survey of the area will need to be conducted prior to the activity. Activities that could cause disturbance to nesting raptors include reclamation or other earth-moving work during nesting season".

**Findings:**

The information is adequate to evaluate the status of reclamation activities for the midterm review.

## RECLAMATION PLAN

### 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:**

The site is in the eighth year of the liability period

#### **Findings:**

It would seem appropriate to initiate the final two years of back to back vegetation monitoring.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

It would seem appropriate to initiate the final two years of back to back vegetation monitoring.

The midterm review is recommended for approval.