

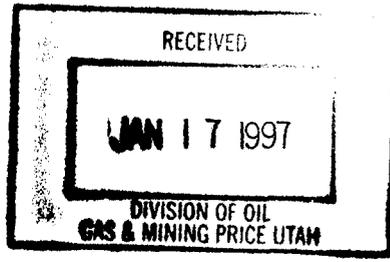
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PO Box 310  
Huntington, Utah 84528

January 10, 1997

Utah Coal Regulatory Program  
 Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
 451 East 400 North  
 P. O. Box 156  
 Price, Utah 84501



Attention: Mr. Peter Hess

97A

#2

**Re: AMENDMENT TO REMOVE SILT FENCING, DEER CREEK  
 MINE, WASTE ROCK DISPOSAL SITE ACCESS ROAD,  
 PACIFICORP, ACT/015/018, EMERY COUNTY, UTAH.**

PacifiCorp, by and through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Energy West Mining Company ("Energy West") as mine operator, herewith submits an amendment to remove silt fencing along the access road to the waste rock site.

GENERAL

Silt fencing was constructed at the toe of the fill slopes along the access road to the Deer Creek Waste Rock Disposal Storage Site and at the toe of the berm around the storage site. These areas of silt fencing are designated as alternate sediment control areas, and have been maintained during construction of the access road and storage site and up to the current time.

Annual monitoring, an ongoing procedure with test results documented in PacifiCorp's Annual report (forwarded to DOGM) and established records of revegetation coverage reflect, for the most part, that revegetation coverage is now adequate to meet the permit requirements.

The interim revegetation plan submitted in the permit states on page 3-7, volume 10, that the criteria for interim revegetation success will be the establishment of a reproducing vegetative cover, on the majority of the slope, which prevents or minimizes erosion. This will be determined by spring and fall site inspections. If erosion damage occurs, it will be repaired and revegetated as needed.

A visual inspection and evaluation of all the silt fencing and slope coverage along the Deer Creek

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Waste Rock Site Access Road and around the toe of the storage site berm was conducted by PacifiCorp. The findings of the inspection, in conjunction with the available revegetation studies, indicate that much of the silt fencing could be removed without causing any detriment to the surrounding undisturbed area or causing any sediment contributions to stream flows as found along the access road. The use of revegetation cover will be the primary means of sediment control, if silt fence removal is approved. A visual comparison of the surrounding undisturbed area in relation to the re-established vegetative slopes, is favorable, in that the slopes have at least as much or better coverage.

Therefore a request by the Permittee to the Division was made to have representatives make a visit and help in the decision as to whether silt fence removal would be acceptable.

An evaluation review of revegetation cover of the access road slopes and silt fenced areas was made during the summer of 1996 by the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining by the following individuals: Hydrologist, Steve Johnson, Biologist, Paul Baker, and Soil Scientist, Bob Davidson. The findings indicate that many areas of silt fence along the access road could be considered for removal, if documentation was submitted with the proposal to show compliance to the permit requirements for slope revegetation cover. The consensus of the review from these individuals was, that it could be acceptable to remove much of the silt fencing along the access road. Certain areas were held in reservation, as coverage by visual means appeared outside the coverage requirement and had some silt accumulations along the silt fence, these areas of concern will retain the silt fence and are depicted on the enclosed drawing as indicated below.

A determination was made to retain all silt fencing at the base of the top soil berm around the waste rock area. When revegetation has been established on these slopes or other means to control possible erosion and sediment into steam channels are met, as required by permit specifications, then an additional evaluation review will be made to determine if silt fencing can be removed.

A vegetative cover report for 1995 reflecting the fill and cut slope analysis along the access road was performed by Dr. Patrick Collins Ph. D; ( seven copies of his findings are attached.) The fill slopes that pertain to this amendment, as indicated in the report, are favorable in depicting adequate slope coverage within the permit specifications.

A drawing of the proposed silt fencing removal locations is attached for your aid in reviewing this amendment.

The slope areas will continue to be studied and evaluated for growth and coverage on an annual basis. Periodic inspections by PacifiCorp will be conducted to determine if any erosion occurs or problem areas develop within the permit area. If any erosion areas do occur they will be address as stated in the permit.

#### SILT FENCE REMOVAL IF AMENDMENT IS APPROVED

The process by which the silt fencing will be removed is as follows: the hog ring clips will be

removed from the roof bolt posts, the fabric will be cut along the base of the ground line, allowing the fabric which has been silted or covered to remain intact and in place. This method should prevent disturbance of the existing conditions that prevail. The bolts will be removed last.

RECLAMATION COST:

No cost variations would be reflected due to this change.

Please call Richard Northrup at 687-4822 , if there are any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your help and assistance in completing this amendment.

Sincerely,



Richard Northrup  
Env. Eng.

cc: Chuck Semborski  
Dept. file (Barbara)