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

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November 2, 1998

TO: File

THRU: Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor 

FROM: Paul Baker, Reclamation Biologist 

RE: Rilda Canyon Silt Fence Removal, PacifiCorp, Deer Creek Mine, ACT/015/018-98B, Folder #2, Emery County, Utah

**SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:**

PacifiCorp has proposed to remove silt fences on the out slopes of the road and in some other areas of Rilda Canyon. The proposal consists of a vegetation survey and a map showing where the silt fences would be removed. *This is not an amendment to the plan.*

Vegetation in the area where the silt fences would be removed consists primarily of grasses with some forbs. Vegetation cover in this area is slightly higher than the cover from understory vegetation in the corresponding riparian reference area; however, the reference area also has a significant overstory. The slopes outside the riparian area have vegetation cover similar to the areas where the silt fences would be removed.

While vegetation contributes significantly to erosion control, it is not the only factor. The most telling indicator is simply whether excessive erosion is occurring and if the silt fences have required frequent maintenance. The Division inspector said in a telephone conversation the area has not had an erosion problem and that he feels there should be no concern with removing the silt fences.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Based on the vegetation information in the application and site visits by the Division inspector, it is recommended the application be approved.