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# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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March 25, 1993

TO: Pamela Grubaugh-Littig, Permit Supervisor ✓  
FROM: Ken Wyatt, Reclamation Hydrologist *KW*  
RE: Sediment Pond Cleaning, Pacificorp Electric Operations,  
Cottonwood/Wilberg Mine, ACT/015/019, Emery County, Utah

## **SYNOPSIS**

On March 19, 1993, Pacificorp Electric Operations (PEO) submitted a proposal to clean the north sediment pond. The plan uses the same procedure used in 1992.

## **ANALYSIS**

The proposed plan is to construct a dike at the new waste rock area and then to haul water/sediments from the pond to the waste rock site. This material will be dumped behind the dike and allowed to dry before it is spread out at the waste rock site for final disposal. This is the same method which was approved for pond cleaning last year.

The remains of the sediments from last year were observed during an inspection of the mine on March 23-24, 1993. After questioning the operator at the mine they indicated that the new sediments would be placed on top of the old ones. This is not acceptable as that would add substantial water to the old sediments and increase the time before they could spread these out with the waste rock material. The old sediments are semi dry and could possibly be spread out prior to placement of any new sediments. If the old sediments are still too wet to handle then the operator should construct a new holding area for this years sediments in a different area of the waste rock site. No new sediments should be mixed with the old material.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

I recommend that PacifiCorp be approved to dispose of the sediments in the waste rock site but they must commit to either spreading last year's sediment out for final disposal before the new material is brought to the waste rock site OR they should construct a separate retainment area for new sediments from this years pond cleaning.