



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210  
PO Box 145801  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801  
801-538-5340  
801-359-3940 (Fax)  
801-538-7223 (TDD)

Michael O. Leavitt  
Governor

Lowell P. Braxton  
Division Director

## TECHNICAL FIELD VISIT

**DATE:** October 14, 1998  
**DOGM STAFF:** Robert Davidson  
**ATTENDANTS:** Dennis Oakley, Energy West Mining Co.,  
**RE:** Cottonwood Fan Portal Reclamation, PacifiCorp, Cottonwood/Wilberg Mine,  
ACT/015/019, File #2, Emery County, Utah

### Purpose:

- Observe reclamation in process and make a decision on use of subsoil and topsoil stockpiled materials.

### Background:

- Energy West requesting permission to use subsoil from the subsoil stockpile as top dressing instead of topsoil from the topsoil stockpile. They would like to use only subsoil and no topsoil during reclamation thus leaving the topsoil stockpile for later reclamation efforts of the belt portal and Trail Canyon Mine. The current approved plan specifies using topsoil as top dressing. Both materials have similar physical and chemical characteristics.

### Field Observations:

- Reclamation has started with construction of an access road to the upper benches using subsoil from the subsoil stockpile. Not real happy with this, but the soil will be used as fill against the benches and compacted in place. All surface material will be loosened and poked after it is placed to final grade. I voiced my concern on damaging the soil from compaction and destroying the soil structure from repeated vehicle traffic.
- They have accessed the second bench and are proceeding on to the third bench. Discussion here focussed on path and method to reach the upper benches.
- The subsoil stockpile supports an excellent stand of vegetation, as good or better than the vegetation stand on the topsoil stockpile. The subsoil has excellent tilth and color.

### Recommendations and Conclusions:

- From field observation and based on physical and chemical characteristics, the subsoil material is an excellent source of soil material for final reclamation of the fan portal without needing the topsoil dressing. I gave verbal approval to use only the subsoil during reclamation of the fan portal and to hold the topsoil for latter reclamation efforts.
- File an amendment to use only the subsoil during final reclamation of the fan portal. The amendment should compare physical and chemical characteristics of the subsoil and topsoil.
- The amendment needs to include final disposition of the topsoil stockpile

Signature:   
Robert A. Davidson, Soils Reclamation Specialist

on November 5, 1998