



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

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TO: Internal File

FROM: James D. Smith, Sr. Reclamation Specialist *JDS*

RE: Cottonwood Fan Portal Area Phase I Bond Release, PacifiCorp, Cottonwood / Wilberg Mine, ACT/015/019-BR00D

SUMMARY:

An application for Phase I Bond Release for the Cottonwood Fan Portal area was received July 6, 2000. The Division has reviewed the application and found several deficiencies, so the information in the application is not considered adequate to meet the minimum requirements of the Coal Mining Rules. The Permittee should make the requisite changes to the Mining and Reclamation Plan, then resubmit the bond release application.

The Cottonwood Fan Portal site was initially disturbed under an exploration permit in anticipation of constructing a fan portal; however, construction of the fan portal was abandoned when extensive burnt coal was found. Cast-off material below the site was reclaimed in 1981. Reclamation of the Cottonwood Fan Portal area was initiated in November of 1998. The reclaimed cast-off material below the site was not re-disturbed in 1998.

A historical abandoned mine (Old Johnson Mine) is located within the Cottonwood Fan Portal reclamation area. Historical remnants included an old wagon road and two sealed portals. The old wagon road was upgraded and utilized for hauling topsoil during reclamation of the fan portal area in 1998 and afterwards was reclaimed, leaving an access trail to the two historical Johnson portals.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

RECLAMATION PLAN

TECHNICAL MEMO

HYDROLOGIC INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.14, 784.29, 817.41, 817.42, 817.43, 817.45, 817.49, 817.56, 817.57;
R645-301-512, -301-513, -301-514, -301-515, -301-532, -301-533, -301-542, -301-723, -301-724, -301-725,
-301-726, -301-728, -301-729, -301-731, -301-733, -301-742, -301-743, -301-750, -301-751, -301-760,
-301-761.

Analysis:

Diversions

No modification or reclamation has been done to the two diversion ditches, the undisturbed drainage ditch (UD3) across the top of the site and the disturbed drainage ditch (DD4) through the area reclaimed in 1981.

Sediment Control Measures

Plate 5-5 in the MRP shows a silt fence (also described on Soils - page 6) at the top of the area revegetated in 1981. The revised Plate 5-5 no longer shows this silt fence, but this is in agreement with Plate 3-13, the Hydrological Map, which does not show this silt fence.

Hydroseed and hydromulch or blanket mulch were placed on slopes and benches where soils were redistributed, as committed to in the MRP.

Findings:

This section of the proposed Phase I Bond Release is considered adequate in regard to the requirements of the regulations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Deficiencies have been identified in other TAs. Prior to approval, in addition to Attachments A through E, the Phase 1 bond release application package needs to include amended sections detailing reclamation activities and changes as they actually occurred during reclaiming the Cottonwood fan portal area.