



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

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To: Internal File

Thru: Daron R. Haddock, Permit Supervisor *DQH*
Susan M. White, Permit Supervisor *SMW*

From: Jim D. Smith, Sr. Reclamation Specialist *JDS*

Re: Technical Field Visit - Cottonwood Fan Portal Phase-1 Reclamation Bond Release, Energy West, Cottonwood/Wilberg Mine, ACT/015/019

Other Attendees: DOGM Personnel: Wayne Western and Robert Davidson
PacifiCorp Personnel: Chuck Semborski, Dennis Oakley, and Ken Fleck

Date & Time: Thursday August 24, 2000. DOGM personnel and Dennis Oakley arrived at approximately 1:30 p.m. and began examining the site. Chuck Semborski and Ken Fleck arrived at approximately 2:30 p.m.

PURPOSE:

Energy West has applied for Phase-1 Bond Release. This was not a bond release inspection, but an inspection to assist DOGM in preparing the TA of the bond release application.

OBSERVATIONS:

- Surface-pocking has been effective in reducing formation of rills and gullies and in retaining sediment and moisture on the sloped surface;
- Grasses and forbs are growing almost everywhere there is soil;
- Sweet yellow clover has been browsed by deer;
- Caliche at the top of the cut shows where soils previously covered the upper parts of the cuts;
- The upper- and southern-most cut-slopes have not been covered with soil. Vegetation has not been established on these areas and it is highly unlikely that they will stabilize with time. Although the appearance of AOC has been established to meet the law, these cut-slope areas will never be totally compatible with the surrounding environment.

- Remaining upper portions of the cut-slopes along the old road are not as extreme as they appear in the as-built cross-sections. The scale of the drawings must be considered. The surveys for the reclamation plan and for the as-builts may have used a different baseline; they were done by different surveyors. Cross-sections and text in the submittal will be redone to clarify the true size and configuration of the fill and the remaining exposed cut-slopes;
- The portals of the old Johnson Mine are sealed , but the coal seam is exposed adjacent to the portals and across most of the Johnson Mine site (Photos 2 and 3);
- Coal or carbonaceous shale has been left exposed under massive sandstone ledges in several locations on the reclaimed site (Photo 1);
- Several active seeps issue from rock exposed by the cut. The installed French drains are not evident, not actively draining the fill, but the weather has been dry; and
- The section of the access road to the Johnson Mine that is next to the portals was not reclaimed. The Division agrees with the permittee about leaving that section of the road unreclaimed. Because the reclamation plan does not address the road being left unreclaimed, the Division cannot grant bond release until the issue has been addressed in the reclamation plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS/CONCLUSIONS:

- Energy West needs to either cover the exposed carbonaceous material with 4 feet of soil or demonstrate that the material is non-combustible.
- The cross-sections and text describing the fill and remaining cut-slopes along the old road to the Johnson Mine need to be clarified.
- The permittee needs to address the unreclaimed section of the access road by the Johnson Mine portals.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1 - carbonaceous shale and coal exposed at terrace number 1 (date should read 8/24/2000).



Photo 2 - coal seam exposed adjacent to the northern portal at the Johnson Mine (date should read 8/24/2000).



Photo 3 - north portal of the Johnson Mine with exposed coal seam (date should read 8/24/2000).