



State of Utah
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DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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File #2

TO: Daron Haddock

FROM: Susan M. White, Senior Reclamation Biologist *SMW*

RE: Shower House Pad Reference Area, Co-Op Mining Company, Bear Canyon Mine, ACT/015/025, Working File, 94H, Emery County, Utah

SYNOPSIS

The operator has submitted permit amendment pages which provide vegetation information on the predisturbed shower house pad and shower house reference area. The information is submitted as a consultants report. Field data was collected in 1992 and 1993 however the final reports weren't compiled until June 1994.

ANALYSIS

Total living cover of the reference area was 54 percent and the predisturbed shower house area living cover was 46 percent. The reference area had approximately the same slope, exposure and vegetation as the disturbed shower house area. The vegetative community of each area is a transition zone between the Pinyon-Juniper hillsides and the sagebrush/grass alluvial bottomlands.

Woody species density is approximately 1960 individuals per acre in the disturbed area and 3827 individuals per acre in the reference area. All vegetative sampling was performed as described in the Division's Vegetation Information Guidelines.

The differences in the disturbed area and reference area vegetative cover and shrub density are mostly likely statistically significant, although the amendment did not present that information. Never the less, the reference area is approved based on the fact that the vegetative parameters of the reference area exceed the disturbed area.

RECOMMENDATION

Permit change 94H may be approved and included in the permit.

