



State of Utah  
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DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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TO: Joe Helfrich, Permit Supervisor

FROM: Robert Davidson, Soils Reclamation Specialist *RAD*

Re: Determination of Acid-Toxic Forming Potential, Pond "B" Sediment Clean Out, Bear Canyon Mine, Co-Op Mining Company, ACT/015/025-95M, Folder #2, Emery County, Utah.

#### SYNOPSIS

Co-Op Mining Company (Co-Op) removed sedimentation pond waste from Sediment Pond "B" to temporary storage in September, 1995. Inter-Mountain Laboratories, Inc., Farmington, New Mexico received two Pond "B" sediment samples from Co-Op on October 4, 1995. Analysis results were completed and sent to Co-Op on November 14, 1995.

On November 28, 1995, Co-Op requested approval of the Utah Department of Natural Resources, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM) to place the Pond "B" sedimentation pond waste into permanent storage on the surface of the coal stockpile area. For the purpose of assessing the suitability of Pond "B" sediment for permanent storage, Co-Op asked DOGM to review the analyses results for acid-toxic forming potential.

**Regulatory Requirements:** R645-301-528.310, R645-301-535.100 through R645-301-535.500. Excess Spoil.

#### Analysis

The DOGM's "Title V Coal Program Policy for Disposal of Sediment Pond Waste" states that all sedimentation pond waste (if not acid- and/or toxic-forming) is classified as **Excess Spoil**. Tests were performed by Co-Op to characterize the acid- and/or toxic-forming potential of the waste material prior to disposal. The soil analyses results supplied by Co-Op show that the sedimentation pond waste was neither acid- or toxic forming based on the Acid Base Potential, Selenium, and Boron results. In addition, pH, EC, soluble Ca, Mg, and Na, SAR, and Organic Carbon were within the guidelines' acceptable limits. As a note, the high Coarse Fragment percent of the waste renders the material unacceptable for use as substitute top soil (R645-301-233.200).

**Findings**

The sedimentation pond waste is neither acid- nor toxic-forming based on "Title V" guidelines. The waste material is therefore classified as **Excess Spoil**.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Since the sedimentation pond waste is classified as **Excess Spoil**, disposal must follow the regulated Operation Plan (R645-301-528.310) for handling and disposal of excess spoil and the Operational Design Criteria and Plan (R645-301-535) for spoil placement and disposal. Since **Excess Spoil** must be placed within a designated disposal area within the permit area, it is not permissible to place the sedimentation pond waste on the surface of the coal stockpile area. Coal processing areas and **Excess Spoil** disposal areas are two separate entities and must be kept segregated.