DQR 7

State of Utah
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DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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DIVISION OF OIL, GAS & MINING
FIELD VISIT FORM
TECHNICAL

Date: July 30, 1996

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Mine: Bear Canyon CO-OP

File Number: ACT/015/025

DOGM Staff: Robert Davidson and Susan White

Other Attendees: Charles Reynolds

Purpose: Mine expansion in Wilde Horse Ridge Area - soil and vegetation issues.

Observations: CO-OP, Bear Canyon Mine plans on expanding coal operations into the Right Fork of Bear Canyon. This area was proposed for mining in 1983 by the Beaver Creek Mine Company - PRO/015/002, Wilde Horse Ridge MRP submitted on April 1, 1983.

Looked at vegetation and soil resources within the proposed surface expansion areas. Walked the conveyor-belt route from the canyon-mouth rim into, and below the proposed portal-pad area. The proposed portal pad area is nestled within a very steep, box-type canyon. Access into the canyon is limited because of steep walls and rock ledges. The proposed primary access road already exists and is presently being used to access a hunting lodge located above the mining area. Recent grading activities were present on the road due to fresh down cast materials on the outslope. The lodge is recent construction. Additional roads will be needed to access the portal pad area from above with several conveyor maintenance/construction roads. An Order-2 soil survey from the Wild Horse Ridge MRP shows several soil pits at the canyon mouth in the now existing Bear Canyon operations facility area.

There is a spring/seep within the lower mouth section of the steep, narrow canyon where the proposed portal pad will be located. This is an isolated and unique area hosting a micro-environment and riparian area. Several conveyor towers will be located in this area and will need access for installation and maintenance. Discussion included building the access roads so as not to disturb the spring and canyon bottom., thus preserving the riparian area.

Recommendations and Conclusions: An Order-1 soil survey will be needed within the proposed disturbed area. Four soil sampling areas were initially identified and included:

1. Portal/pad area slopes and canyon bottom
2. Lower canyon mouth ridge
3. Conveyor-belt access road areas
4. Proposed topsoil-storage area

Design conveyor-belt access roads to minimize environmental damage with the spring/seep canyon area, thus preserving the unique micro-environment riparian area.

Signature: _____ **on** August 1, 1996
Robert A. Davidson, Reclamation Specialist II (Soils)

cc: Joe Helfrich and Susan White