



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

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor
Kathleen Clarke
Executive Director
Lowell P. Braxton
Division Director

1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
PO Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801
801-538-5340
801-359-3940 (Fax)
801-538-7223 (TDD)

January 12, 2000

TO: Internal File
THRU: Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor *DORH*
THRU: Sharon Falvey, Team Lead *SFS*
FROM: Robert Davidson, Soils Reclamation Specialist *RAD*
RE: Alluvial Valley Floor Technical Analysis of the Wild Horse Ridge Significant Revision, Co-Op Mining Company, Bear Canyon Mine, ACT/015/025-SR98(1)-2

SUMMARY:

The most recent significant revision submission was received on September 28, 1999. This is the first round of Technical Analysis for soils after making the determination that the significant revision package was administratively complete. The chronology for the Wild Horse Ridge Significant Revision (SR) is as follows:

Action	Date
Original SR submittal	12/28/1998
Administratively incomplete, SR returned	2/19/1999
Re-submittal	9/27/1999
Administratively Complete	11/3/1999

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

ALLUVIAL VALLEY FLOORS

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 785.19; R645-302-320.

Analysis:

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) reported that there are alluvial soils in the bottoms of Fish Creek Canyon and the right fork of Bear Creek in sections 24 or 25 T.16S. R. 7E. and sections 19 and 30 T. 16S. R. 8E (see Prime Farmland Letter, dated July 9. 1999, Appendix 8C-5).

The Wild Horse Ridge amendment presented several factors that preclude the mine site from being classified as alluvial valley floors. Based on information presented, the following findings can be made:

- The proposed Wild Horse Ridge area is located in the right fork of Bear Creek which is drained by an ephemeral drainage system.
- The area receives less than 14 inches annual precipitation; however, there is evidence of subterranean irrigation evidenced by a small seep located just below the proposed portal area.
- Steeper slopes and limited flat areas within the immediate vicinity of the mine site and permit area preclude cultivation and irrigation.
- Irrigation water is available from Bear Creek; however, flows are tied to precipitation events.
- The area has no history of agriculture.

Findings:

Based on the above analysis, the Division concludes that an Alluvial Valley Floor does not exist. The information provided meets the regulatory requirements of this section.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Alluvial Valley Floor portion of the Wild Horse Ridge amendment should be approved since the regulatory requirements according to 30 CFR Sec. 785.19 and R645-302-320 has been met.