



State of Utah
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DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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bcc:

Bob Davidson

February 10, 2000

Wendell Owen, Resident Agent
CO-OP Mining Co.
P.O. Box 1245
Huntington, UT 84528

Re Water Bar Modification and Silt Fences Removal Conditional Approval, CO-OP Mining Co, Bear Canyon Mine, ACT/015/025-AM00A, Outgoing File

Dear Mr. Owen:

Enclosed is a copy of the Division's review of your proposal to modify water bar D-8D and to remove four silt fences. The proposal contains no deficiencies and can be approved. Please note however, that the berm near the water bar must be built up and the water bar must receive ongoing maintenance.

Please submit clean copies properly paginated, for insertion into the Mining and Reclamation Plan by February 24, 2000.

Please call me if you have any question.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pamela Grubaugh-Littig".

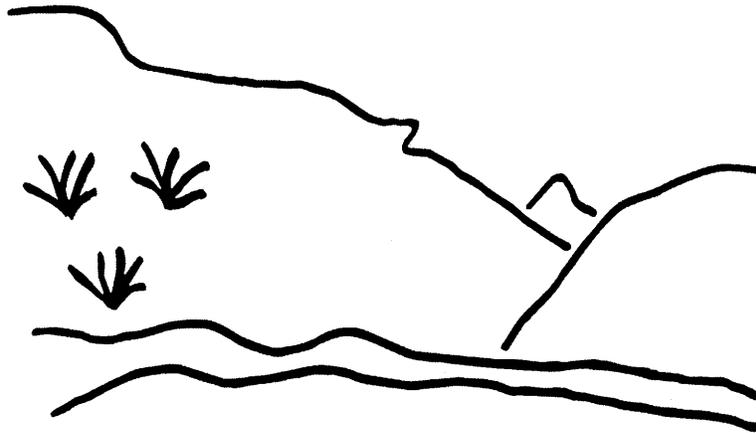
Pamela Grubaugh-Littig
Permit Supervisor

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Enclosure

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State of Utah



Utah Oil Gas and Mining

Coal Regulatory Program

Bear Canyon Mine
Water Bar/Silt Fences
ACT/015/025 - AM00A
Technical Analysis
February 7, 2000

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INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

On January 25, 2000 the Division received a proposed amendment to the Mining and Reclamation Plan. The amendment was to add a bridge structure over an existing concrete dip in the mine access road and to remove four silt fences. Review of the amendment resulted in a Recommendation to approve the proposal.

OPERATION PLAN

OPERATION PLAN

HYDROLOGIC INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 773.17, 774.13, 784.14, 784.16, 784.29, 817.41, 817.42, 817.43, 817.45, 817.49, 817.56, 817.57; R645-300-140, -300-141, -300-142, -300-143, -300-144, -300-145, -300-146, -300-147, -300-147, -300-148, -301-512, -301-514, -301-521, -301-531, -301-532, -301-533, -301-536, -301-542, -301-720, -301-731, -301-732, -301-733, -301-742, -301-743, -301-750, -301-761, -301-764.

Analysis:

Sediment Control Measures

The first part of the proposed amendment is to modify Water Bar D-8D. The water bar is a one-foot deep dip in the mine access road that conveys water from the east side of the road to the west side. From there, the water flows directly into Sediment Pond B. The water bar is made of 8-inch thick concrete to carry the loaded coal haul trucks taking product from the mine. The modification is to add a crossing structure or bridge over the water bar. This is needed to prevent damage to the trucks as they leave the minesite. The design, as shown in Figure 7.2-16, appears adequate to convey the anticipated flows without obstruction of the water. However, the vertical supports will definitely catch debris and the structure will need ongoing inspection and maintenance to keep it clean.

The ditch conveying water to the water bar originates in the disturbed area and contains coal fines and other materials which must reach the sediment pond. A field visit on 2/4/00 showed that the ditch approaching the water bar runs right next to and along a ditch carrying undisturbed drainage. This second ditch diverts water around the minesite and into the main stream. Importantly, the berm separating the two ditches has been eroded and needs to be rebuilt for about 20 feet up-ditch of the water bar. There is the definite risk that ice and/or debris buildup under the bridge could raise the water level in the disturbed area ditch and spill over into the undisturbed area ditch. This would cause off-site impacts. Charles Reynolds, the Operator present during the visit, concurred and agreed to get that done as part of this work.

The second part of the proposed amendment is to remove four silt fences and also modify the MRP to eliminate reference to BTCA Areas H, L, N, R, & T. These areas all have in common that the silt fences are in front of culverts that drain undisturbed drainages and convey the water around the site. The Operator is not required to treat such undisturbed drainage water. Therefore the Operator wants to remove the silt fences. This is appropriate. In addition, the paragraphs for the BTCA areas refer to erosion control matting for areas of high erosion potential. Since the associated slopes are exposed bedrock and detritis from the bedrock, no erosion control matting has been installed. Thus, the references to them can be removed.

Findings:

The proposed amendment meets the minimum requirements of the regulation.

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