

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

June 26, 2007

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TO: Internal File

THRU: Jim Smith, Lead *JS 01/01/07*

FROM: Priscilla Burton, CPSSc, Environmental Scientist III *PWB by a/c*

RE: Loadout Expansion, CO-OP Mining Company, Bear Canyon Mine, C/015/0025, Task ID # 2809, Outgoing File

SUMMARY:

On May 15, 2007, the Division received a response to deficiencies outlined in the review of the Loadout Expansion (previously reviewed as tasks #2739 and 2469). This application to expand the loadout area at the Bear Canyon will provide for three, **paved** lanes for ingress and egress. A small portion of a pad outslope previously designated as substitute topsoil will be cut in the process. The area to be cut is the slope between the loading pad and the stacking tubes in reclamation area TS 5 (shown on Reclamation Area Map Plate 5-2C, cross sections 5+00 through 9+00). A retaining wall (max. height 10 ft.) will support the cut slope.

This application establishes the landowner's request for retention of the asphalt road at 20 ft width, no greater than 20% slope for access to the hunting cabin on Wild Horse Ridge (App 5-F landowner agreement, dated May 5, 2007).

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TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: Pub. L 95-87 Section's 507(b), 508(a), and 516(b), 30 CFR 783., ET. al.

OPERATION PLAN

TOPSOIL AND SUBSOIL

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 817.22; R645-301-230.

Analysis:

The surface 27 inches of the outslope has been designated as a source of substitute topsoil under R645-301-233.100. The available 678 yd³ substitute topsoil from this location will be stockpiled in reclamation area TS 7, up canyon from the loadout. Seeding and revegetation of the stockpile will be as described in Chapter 2 (personal communication with Mark Reynolds 03/09/07).

Table 2-3 indicates that the 678 yd³ of available substitute topsoil will be hauled to reclamation area TS 7, for storage (pg. 5I-61). This volume of substitute topsoil is not included in the required topsoil volumes laid out in Table 5I-6 for Area TS-7. Consequently, Table 5I-1 does not modify the required quantity of fill or topsoil in TS 7 or TS 8, by 678 yd³, although the Cut and Fill volume description on page 5I-6 has been revised accordingly.

The plan reduces the volume of salvageable substitute topsoil from the TS-5 area by 678 yd³, but Table 5I-1 indicates that there is still adequate fill to provide 1,000 yd³ of material from TS-5 for use during reclamation of Wildhorse Ridge area TS-17 (as described on pages 5I-13 and 5K-7). Appendix Q describes the loadout expansion.

Findings:

The information provided meets the requirements of this section of the regulations.

RECLAMATION PLAN

BACKFILLING AND GRADING

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 785.15, 817.102, 817.107; R645-301-234, -301-537, -301-552, -301-553, -302-230, -302-231, -302-232, -302-233.

Analysis:

General

Plates 2-3 C, E & G illustrate the location of reclamation areas TS 5, TS 7, TS 8, TS 15 and TS 17 under discussion.

- TS 8 will require 952 cu yds of imported fill from TS 5.
- **Notes from Inspection Report dated September 21, 2005 concerning reclamation in TS 7 and 8:** "The installation of erosion control matting on the backfilled #2 Mine (Tank seam) road is approximately 85% complete. Although matting has been placed to where the backfill ends, small areas remain to be completed. The Division suggested that the Permittee install more rock on the matting to help hold it in place. At present, canyon winds may place the matting in disarray. Pictures of the reclaimed road were taken.....A pile of backfill material remains on the storage pad where the Permittee intends to store longwall components, (pad inby the #1 Mine de-energized electrical substation). The Permittee intends to utilize this by extending the backfill on the Tank seam access road further down the canyon. The area will be used to store components for the longwall when they arrive."
- The Blind Canyon tunnel area (TS 15) was backfilled with 1,000 cu yds of soil from the Wild Horse Ridge TS 17 area.
- Additional material generated from the Wild Horse Ridge development was hauled to TS-7 and TS-8 for reclamation of those areas. So the use of TS 5 soils may have been reduced even further. If so, the cut/fill balance plan must reflect the change.

Thus, a 1,000 cu yd deficit was created in TS 17. The cuts of TS 17 will be partially filled with 1,000 cu yds of material from the TS 5. The loadout expansion plan (App. Q) reduces the volume of salvageable substitute topsoil from the TS-5 area by 678 yd³, but Table 5I-1

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indicates that there is still adequate fill to provide 1,000 yd³ of material from TS-5 for use during reclamation of Wildhorse Ridge area TS-17 (as described on pages 5I-13 and 5K-7).

Mr. Mark Reynolds indicated that the Permittee will provide an update of the contemporaneous reclamation completed to date in the 2006 Annual Report (in accordance with R645-301-532.100).

Findings:

The plan meets the requirements of the Backfilling and Grading R645 Rules.

POSTMINING LAND USES

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.15, 784.200, 785.16, 817.133, R645-301-412, -301-413, -301-414, -302-270, -302-271, -302-272, -302-273, -302-274, -302-275.

Analysis:

The first 0.65 miles of the access road will remain as part of the County road system (see the 1983 County Agreement in Appendix 5F). The remainder of the access road is owned by C.O.P. Development and will remain in place for the post-mining recreational land use (landowner agreement App. 5F). Item #5 of this agreement (dated May 5, 2007) specifies the landowner's request for reclamation of the road: 20 ft. wide with slope no greater than 20%, and retention of asphalt.

Findings:

The information meets the requirements of this section of the regulations.

RECOMMENDATIONS: