
UTAH OGM COAL PROGRAM MEETING NOTES

Date: September 14, 2007
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Location: Room 1030

To: Internal File, Coal Hollow, P/025/005, ACR_2814.

From: Priscilla Burton

Attendees: DOGM: Dana Dean, Jim Smith, Dave Darby, Priscilla Burton
Alton Coal Development, LLC: Chris McCourt, Patrick Collins, biologist; Eric Peterson, hydrologist; Bob Long, soil scientist.

Purpose: Discuss the Apparent Completeness Review dated August 27, 2007.

MEETING SUMMARY:

Incomplete vegetation information, sampling of vegetation required for mine facilities and spoil stockpile area. This oversight will be corrected. The Division urged the applicant to provide vegetation sampling for years 2 and 3 mining at this time as well.

Application relies on 1987 vegetation survey information. Patrick will provide name of consultant conducting the survey and methodology and survey locations from the original survey.

Geologic requirements: sampling methods for overburden and drill cores must include selenium to the detection limit of 0.1 ppm which is the allowable concentration limit identified in the Division's overburden handling guidelines. [Bob has a copy.] All cores must be analyzed for radiation using a Geiger counter. If indicated by the initial readings, laboratory analysis of the cores will be conducted for Alpha, Beta and Gamma radiation levels.

The number of overburden core samples taken was discussed. The Division wanted to know if there was a core collected between CH-6-05 and shown on Plate 6-5. Erik stated there were no cores collected, just surface samples represented by sites C7, C8, and C9. Core sampling for acid and toxic analyses was previously described in an e-mail, which was to include composite sampling over 10 ft. intervals or within each lithographic stratum if less than 10 ft. If the unit is extensive in depth a sample shall be taken every ten feet of the unit, which includes the coal seam. A question was raised about the depth of sampling at CH-5-05. Erik pointed out that composite samples were taken and shown in Appendix 6-2. Upon review of the information by the Division it was hard to discern where the sample started, or where the "base" of the sample column starts, from what is shown on the core log of CH-5-05. It appears there were no separate acid and toxic testing conducted on the coal unit.

The lack of information on federal coal is intentional for confidentiality. This explains the lack of drill hole information in the facilities area and the abrupt end to contours on geologic maps.

Robinson Creek diversion was approved by water rights. Was this approval meant to convey a permanent relocation in the configuration described by the application?

Eric Peterson described the new mine plan (this application) as avoiding the alluvial valley floor, which was previously described and planned to be mined in the 1980 application. In the application, Eric sought to show that the area did not meet the definition of AVF. He did not see stream channels formed of streamlaid deposits, nor water sufficient for flood irrigation. He stated that the area is excluded from an AVF based on the following three criteria:

1. lack of stream channel
2. no terraces
3. no stream laid deposit.

The Division countered that Google Earth shows a stream and flood plains and the USGS maps included in the application show unconsolidated deposits as Qa for alluvium and a perennial stream and an intermittent stream in the permit area, with agricultural activity east and south of the permit area.

Division suggested that the application reference maps to support the concept that the area is formed of colluvial outwash from shale sloughing off adjacent hillsides.

Division requested further sampling to define the characteristics of the soil and plants in the area east of the permit boundary. This is private land and sampling should not be destructive. For soils information, auger samples down to 4 ft. can provide depth to water table, mottling, gleying, and rooting depth.

Patrick indicated that the area was previously sampled by a 1987 survey. Since 20 years have passed the Division requests that the wetland meadow delineation survey is current for the purpose of evaluating AVF. Patrick will evaluate the wetlands east of the permit boundary.

Vegetation sampling in pasturelands would include crop & productivity. Patrick wondered about a reference area for pastureland.

Bob discussed the apparent inconsistency with weather data indicating a frigid soil climate and the NRCS Prime Farmland determination, which indicates that the soils are in a mesic climate. This impacts Bob's ability to place the soils series which have been mapped in the Panguitch area, but which are all frigid. Since Corey Meier has since left the NRCS, Bob will talk with Vic Parlow out of the Richfield NRCS office about changing the amending the Prime Farmland determination.

ACTION ITEMS: (Include item, timeline, and responsible person.)**Bob**

Provide soil sampling for mining locations in years 2 and 3.

East of permit area, gather soils information, auger samples down to 4 ft. can provide depth to water table, mottling, gleying, and rooting depth.

Talk with Vic Parlow out of the Richfield NRCS office about changing the amending the Prime Farmland determination.

Chris

Obtain landowner permission to sample soils and vegetation east of the permit boundary.

Contact laboratory and have all overburden soil samples and cores re-analyzed for hot water soluble selenium.

All cores must be analyzed for radiation using a Geiger counter. If indicated by the initial readings, laboratory analysis of the cores will be conducted for Alpha, Beta and Gamma radiation levels.

Dave

With this new understanding of how the cores and overburden samples were obtained, Dave will evaluate the information discuss further sampling or coring requirements with Eric.

Eric

Will re-write the alluvial valley floor section to include all requirements of R645-302-321.200 *et seq.*

Will remove blanket statements from the hydrology sections, and make sure all maps and hydrologic calculations are properly certified.

Patrick

Evaluate the wetlands east of the permit boundary.

Complete sampling of vegetation required for mine facilities and spoil stockpile area.

Provide sampling for locations of mining in years 2 and 3.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: (This section is intended to provide attendees the opportunity to contribute additional and significant information concerning the meeting content that may not have been mentioned during the meeting.)

PWB

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