



OGMCOAL DNR <ogmcoal@utah.gov>

Fwd: Topsoil/Subsoil handling plans

Priscilla Burton <priscillaburton@utah.gov>
To: OGMCOAL DNR <ogmcoal@utah.gov>

Mon, Jul 13, 2015 at 9:40 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kirk Nicholes** <knicholes@altoncoal.com>
Date: Sat, Jul 11, 2015 at 7:57 AM
Subject: RE: Topsoil/Subsoil handling plans
To: Priscilla Burton <priscillaburton@utah.gov>

From: Priscilla Burton [<mailto:priscillaburton@utah.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2015 5:28 PM
To: Kirk Nicholes
Cc: cherylparker@utah.gov; Keenan Storrar; Joe Helfrich
Subject: Topsoil/Subsoil handling plans

Hello Kirk,

Cheryl conducted an inspection on June 30 and reported three things that concerned me.

1. Topsoil was going to be used to raise a low spot by the Dame's access road to final grade. This is unacceptable. In accordance with your MRP, topsoil is applied after the site is at final grade. You may not use topsoil for grading purposes, including the pond 4 area. **Cheryl misunderstood, the area that ponds has no topsoil on it while surrounding areas on three sides do, therefore water ponds. The required 8" of topsoil has been placed bringing the area that collected water to the same grade as surrounding areas.**

2. Subsoil is being removed from the Excess Spoil pile in preparation for interim grading of that pile. Could you fill me in on the specifics of the soil handling plan for this step of the reclamation? In the absence of any written plan, you will need to follow the performance standards for topsoil/subsoil handling. At a minimum, the soil stockpiles should be segregated, protected and signed. **Surface mining is complete at the Coal Hollow Mine, as per the plan, the remaining Highwall Trench will be backfilled. Material for backfill will come from the excess spoils. In order to do this, subsoil and topsoil that have been placed will have to be temporarily removed, the excess spoils will be placed in the Highwall Trench to bring to approximate original contour. Then subsoil and topsoil will be placed for final reclamation in the area now devoid of excess spoils. This as well as other reclamation will occur over the next couple of months.**

3. A small topsoil stockpile appears to be stockpiled adjacent to the water tanks on the east side of the facilities yard. All topsoil should be live hauled or signed. For future work, it will be necessary and helpful to have a few topsoil and subsoil signs made up so that they can be used to clearly mark temporary stockpiles.

The pile Cheryl refers to came from excavation of the leaking pipe that was repaired. As the pipe had probably leaked for some time, the excavated material was quite wet and piled to the side. Once the pipe was repaired, dry material was brought in to cover the excavation. All topsoil that existed in this area was removed prior to construction of the facilities in 2010 and placed in Topsoil pile #1, therefore there was no topsoil in this area prior to repair of the pipe. The wet excavated material will be removed.

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