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

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TECHNICAL FIELD VISIT

DATE: April 8, 1998.
DOGM STAFF: Robert Davidson
ATTENDANTS: Chris Hansen, Skyline Mine
RE: Portal Break Out and Substation, Link Canyon, SUFCO Mine, Canyon Fuel Company, ACT/041/002, Sevier County, Utah

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Purpose:
- Collect topsoil resource information by conducting an Order-I soil survey. Based on soil survey, determine if soil salvage is necessary.

Background:
- An amendment has been submitted to the Division for a portal breakout and substation location in Link Canyon. No topsoil salvage was proposed because the area is located within a steep canyon containing mainly rock-outcrop, rubble land topography. An Order-II soil survey was provided to describe the soil resources within Link Canyon, however, no specific or actual on-site soil survey information was collected for the proposed disturbed area. It was mutually decided that an Order-I soil survey was needed for determining if there was suitable soil and amounts of soil available for soil salvage within the proposed disturbed area.

Field Observations:
- Two soil pits were hand excavated within the proposed disturbance area boundary. Both pits showed an A horizon (6-8 inches thick) and C horizons. Total soil thickness was 19 inches in the first pit and 20+ inches in the second pit. The proposed disturbed area is located on the hillside above the road. In this specific location, the hillside is not quite as steep as hillsides located immediately up or down the canyon, and therefore, soils are deeper and some soil development has occurred. The soil surface is veneered with gravels with many, widely dispersed boulders. In this immediate, specific area, the surface rock fragments are most likely classified as Class 3. The A horizon is nearly rock free while the C horizon contains cobbles and pebbles ranging from 35 to 40% by volume.

Recommendations and Conclusions:
- Soil salvage is recommended based on soil thickness and amounts. Rock has an integral role within this environment for soil development, soil stability, plant establishment and plant survival. Therefore, the indigenous rock should be salvaged and preserved with the soils.
- The salvaged soil may be stored in the pad out slopes.
- The stored soil needs to be protected from soil erosion and contamination during the life of the pad area. Soil berms, vegetation, soil treatments, and soil roughening techniques will be required to protect the stockpiled soil during storage. The soil stockpile should be identified by signs. The reclamation plan should identify methods for reclaiming the pad and replacing the soil.

Signature: _____ on April 9, 1998
Robert A. Davidson, Reclamation Specialist III (Soils)

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