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# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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OK

February 20, 2003

TO: Internal File

THRU: Daron R. Haddock, Permit Supervisor 

FROM:  Priscilla W. Burton, Sr. Reclamation Specialist/Soils

RE: Technical Field Visit, Topsoil Pile Construction Link Canyon Escape way/Power Portal Development, Canyon Fuel Company, LLC., SUFCO Mine, C/041/002

Other Attendees: Jerriann Ernstsens, DOGM

Date & Time: February 12, 2003. 2:00 – 2:30 p.m.

**PURPOSE:**

To observe the condition of the salvaged topsoil.

**OBSERVATIONS:**

Topsoil had been salvaged during the first week of February under the supervision of Gary Taylor. The topsoil was placed on the outslope of the road in a conical pile. Approximately 80 – 100 cu yds of topsoil was salvaged mostly from the drainage according to Mr. Gary Taylor (Canyon Fuel Co.). Willows were saved for replanting onto the topsoil pile at the USFS request. But the bare root plants were not planted as of the date of this field visit. Seeding and mulching of the topsoil had not been accomplished as of the date of the inspection, but was completed by Feb. 20, 2003 (email communication from Mr. Mike Davis, Mine Manager Canyon Fuel Co.). Mr Davis indicated that during gouging, the height of the pile was reduced somewhat.

Mr. Davis did not encounter *Mahonia* on the slope, therefore, transplanting of *Mahonia* from the salvage area to the topsoil pile was not done. It appears after a discussion with Mr. Davis that there was some confusion on which plant was *Mahonia*.

**TECHNICAL FIELD VISIT**

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The access road had been constructed with two culverts buried in the drainage. The inlets to the culverts were about five feet below the surface of the undisturbed drainage. Flow from the drainage will have to drop the five feet and then pass under the road. This drop in flow will probably create considerable erosion on the cutslope and the water will likely pool at the inlet to the culverts. Keeping the silt fence downstream of the culvert in good working order will be a necessity at this site.

There was very little room for maneuvering equipment and personnel.

Nielson Construction was constructing the portal headwall under the direction of Mark Greenhalgh. Spoil that had been removed from the head cut was placed on the outslope of the road and was encroaching upon the topsoil pile. Mr. Greenhalgh assured me that after completion of the headwall, the spoil would be backfilled against the headwall. DOGM's inspector, Mr. Hess, and Mr. Davis were notified by telephone as well.

Several power poles had been installed at the site. Electricians were on site working.

The soils in the portal being developed as an escapeway were moist from dewatering of the portal. No water was flowing from the portal to the east. According to Mr. Davis, flow is currently entering the old mine workings and is exiting out the west portal into the roadside drainage ditch. This flow will be intercepted during in-mine development to the old workings. Eventually flow will resume out the east portal down the Canyon. Timing for re-establishing flow to the east portal is uncertain at this time.

A recent letter from USFWS (received by the Division on February 13, 2003) specified that work must be completed before or after the Mexican Spotted Owl's breeding season, which is from Mar 1 to Aug 31. Email correspondence from Mike Davis indicated work had been completed as of February 20, 2003.

**RECOMMENDATIONS/CONCLUSIONS:**

The work at this site was mostly complete by February 20, 2003, including placement of spoil into the fill of the headwall. The topsoil pile, the outslopes and cutslopes of the road were gouged and seeded during the week of February 20, 2003 (email from Mike Davis on 2/20/2003).

Keep the silt fence downstream of the culvert in good working order during this next phase of plant establishment at the site.

Images of the site taken during this visit are located in:  
<ftp://ogm.utah.gov/PUB/MINES/coal/041/002/Images/02122003>

cc: All Attendees  
Price Field Office  
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