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State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Oil, Gas & Mining

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Inspection Report
Minerals Regulatory Program
August 13, 2008

Reviewed: LK

Mine Name: Eagle Canyon
Operator Name: Georgia Pacific

Permit number: M0150050
Inspection Date: July 1 and July 29, 2008
Times: 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM on July 1; 10:30-11:40 AM on July 29

Inspector(s): Paul Baker, Brett Gregory, Lynn Kunzler, and Penny and Emily Berry on July 1; Paul Baker on July 29
Other Participants: Chris Conrad (Price BLM); Bill Barger, Paul Collins, and Dave Chidester (Georgia Pacific)
Mine Status: Inactive, undergoing reclamation

Weather: mostly sunny and 80s-90s both days

Elements of Inspection	Evaluated	Comment	Enforcement
1. Permits, Revisions, Transfer, Bonds, Permit Fees	☒	☒	☐
2. Public Safety (shafts, adits, trash, signs, highwalls)	☐	☐	☐
3. Protection of Drainages / Erosion Control	☐	☐	☐
4. Deleterious Material	☐	☐	☐
5. Roads (maintenance, surfacing, dust control, safety)	☐	☐	☐
6. Concurrent Reclamation	☐	☐	☐
7. Backfilling/Grading (trenches, pits, roads, highwalls, shafts, drill holes)	☒	☒	☐
8. Soils	☐	☐	☐
9. Revegetation	☒	☒	☐
10. Other	☐	☐	☐

Purpose of Inspection:
The operator has been grading the mine, so the purpose of the inspection was to see the work that had been done and what suggestions we could make.

Inspection Summary:
1. Permits, Revisions, Transfer, Bonds, Permit Fees
The Division holds a reclamation surety of $157,700.00 which is currently due to be escalated. It is in the form of a corporate surety.

7. Backfilling/Grading (trenches, pits, roads, highwalls, shafts, drill holes)
On July 1, the operator had started backfilling and grading, and most of the work was completed by July 29. The photos attached to this report were all taken on July 1.

To the left of center in Photo 1 is a gypsum stockpile which by the inspection on July 29 had been almost completely buried. Other areas that were basically regraded are shown in Photos 2 and 3.

There are a few items of concern that we discussed. On the west side of one of the pits is a steep ridge, and we talked about possibly taking this down. The west side of the ridge is not disturbed, so regrading the ridge to something flatter would involve disturbing a larger area. We decided that the ridge looks like many natural features in the area of the mine and that it should be left.

The mine consisted of several pits, and while the operator has been using available material to fill them, it is impossible to fill them completely. We discussed whether the pits should be free draining and decided that this was not necessary. The area receives limited precipitation, so it is unlikely the pits would ever have standing water for more than a few days except perhaps in the winter when there is less evaporation. There is almost no chance at all that these would overflow.

Near the entrance to the site there is a small natural ephemeral drainage that was blocked by roads leading into the mine. Grading this channel back to its original contour would be very difficult, but the operator should be able to create a swale that can transport water. It would start out slightly above the level of the natural drainage.

There are some areas near the entrance that were regraded in about 2000 and were not seeded (Photo 4). These areas have moderately good cover from native species, and although there are windrows of soil perpendicular to the contour, we decided it would be best to leave these areas as they are. They are flat enough that, in spite of the soil windrows, I have never seen any signs of accelerated erosion.

We emphasized to the operator that it is absolutely critical that the area be left very rough.

9. Revegetation
There is an area that was seeded last fall, and it has very little vegetation. Mostly I found halogeton, but there were just a few fourwing saltbush seedlings

Conclusions and Recommendations:
Because of the reclamation currently being done, the Division should delay re-calculating and escalating the surety. The Division might want to consider escalating the surety if reclamation operations cease.

Some of the recommendations are discussed above. The operator needs to ensure the site is very rough.

The operator expects to finish grading in August, but seeding would not be done until late September or October. In the interim, it is likely a crust would form on the soil which is not good for seeding. Either immediately before or immediately after seeding, the area should be lightly harrowed. We suggested using chain link fence dragged behind a four-wheeler.

The environmental assessment dated December 28, 1990, contains the following provisions and stipulations:

After the site has been graded and soil applied, the operator is supposed to spread cryptogamic soil that was apparently salvaged separately from the rest of the soil.

The area is supposed to be seeded between October 1 and March 31. I recommend not seeding after about December 1.

The seed mix is:

Indian ricegrass 1

Needle-and-Thread Grass	2
Galleta	1
Shadscale	0.5
Fourwing Saltbush	0.5
Winterfat	0.5
Yellow Sweet Clover	0.5
Scarlet Globemallow	0.5

Inspector's Signature _____

PBB:pb
cc: Bill Barger, Georgia Pacific
Chris Conrad, Price BLM
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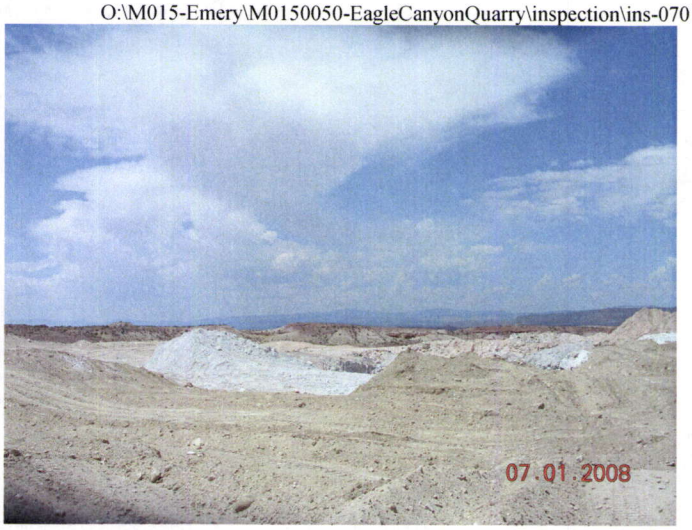

Photo 1. Just to the left of center in this photo is a gypsum stockpile that has now been mostly buried.

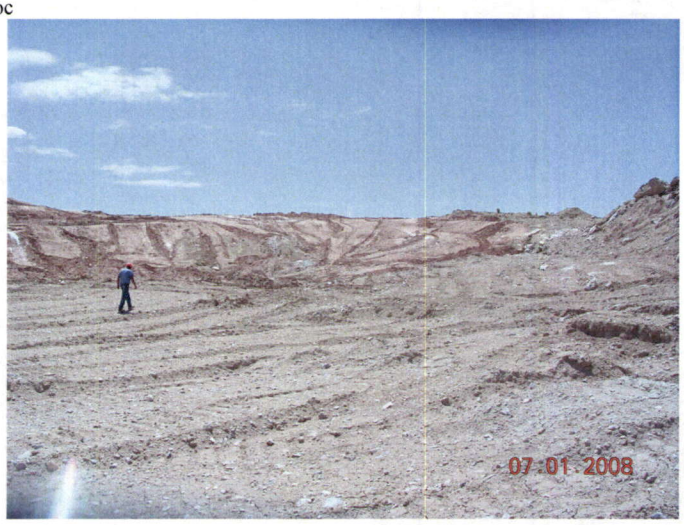

Photo 2. This photo and photo 3 show areas that have been mostly or completely regraded.

Photo 3. Water would pond in this area.

Photo 4. This is an area near the entrance that was regraded in about 2000. While the vegetation is not lush, it consists of native species and is not bad considering the difficulty of establishing vegetation in this area.