BOARD OF OIL, GAS AND MINING
2012 EARTH DAY AWARD NOMINATION

REVIEW SHEET

NOMINATION: Western Clay Co.

ACTIVITY: Minerals

CATEGORY: Other – Reclaiming pre-law disturbance beyond statutory requirements

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

☒ Invite nominee to make presentation in March
☐ Do not invite

REASON:

The operator went beyond regulatory requirements to fill an old pit. While it still catches water, it's a much safer, more useable area.

REVIEWED BY: Paul Baker

2012
UTAH BOARD OF OIL, GAS AND MINING
EARTH DAY AWARDS

Nomination Form

Nominee Information

Company Name Western Clay Company
Address PO Box 127
City, State, Zip Aurora, Utah 84620
Contact Person Brad Boyter
Phone 435-529-3281
Site Name Aurora Clay Mine
Location 1.7 miles NW of Aurora, Utah (Sevier Co.)

Activity and Category (Please check one activity and one category)

Activity

- ~~Oil and Gas~~
- **Minerals**
- ~~Coal~~

Category

- **Environmental improvement to an active mine site, drilling or recovery site, or field**
- **Outstanding results following applications of innovative environmental technology**
- **Outstanding final reclamation or site restoration**
- **Other** Reclaiming Pre-Law Disturbance beyond Division requirements

Nominated By

Name Lynn Kunzler / Peter Brinton (DOGM)
Address DNR, 1594 W. North Temple
City, State, Zip SLC, UT 84116
Phone 801-538-5310

Nomination Summary (attach additional sheets, photos, etc., as necessary)

(see attached)

Return no later than January 31, 2012 to: Earth Day Awards, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, 1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210, P.O. Box 145801. Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801. Phone (801) 538-5324 Fax (801) 359-3940. Nominations may also be submitted online at www.ogm.utah.gov.

EARTH DAY AWARD NOMINATION

To whom it may concern:

I would like to nominate Brad Boyter and Corey Thurston of Western Clay for an Earth Day Award for going beyond his reclamation requirements while conducting mining operations in the area. An existing (pre-law) pit (1.5-2 acres) was backfilled to a stable condition, using excess overburden from their adjacent mining operation (Aurora Clay Pit) and revegetated. The backfilling almost completely filled the old pit. During the reclamation of their mine, additional grading along the edges of the old pit was done to blend the regraded slopes into the natural slopes. The reclamation earthwork is exemplary. An inspection following a large storm event in 2011 indicates that excessive erosion is not occurring. Water and some natural sedimentation (comparable to that generated in surrounding areas) flows into a small depression where the pit used to be. Wildlife is making use of this water. Vegetation that is beneficial for wildlife and soil stability has established on this site as well as their permitted area.

This area is frequented by riders on ATVs, and the reclaimed area is now less of a public safety hazard.

Nominated by Peter Brinton and Lynn Kunzler, Utah Division of Oil, Gas & Mining

Peter Brinton

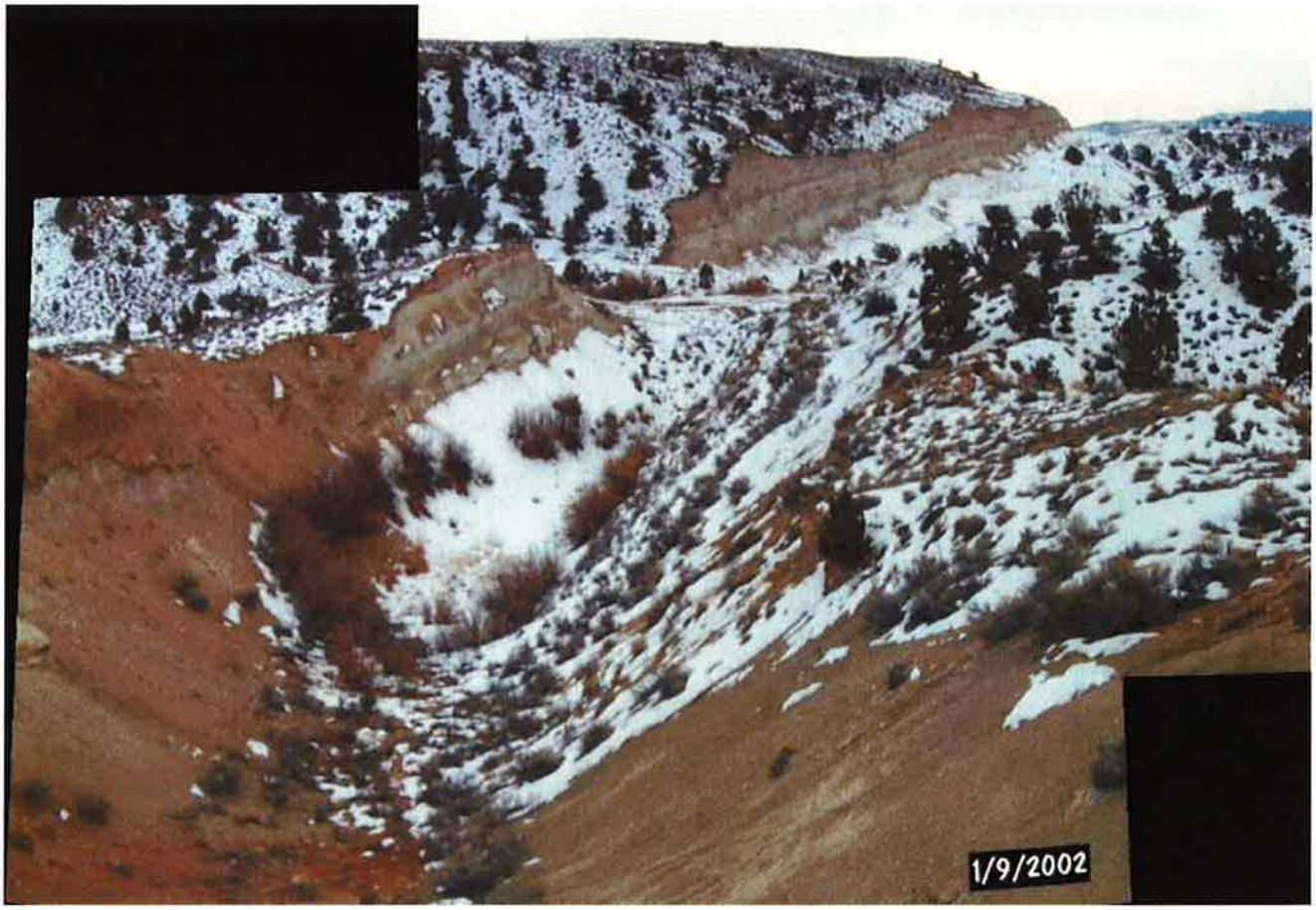
Date: January 27, 2012

Pit area before backfilling

During Reclamation

After Reclamation

Before



After