

**Lake Powell Pipeline Project
FERC Additional Information Request Schedule B – Item 14**

Exhibit E

Geology and Soils

- 14. In sections 5.3.1.2.2.7, 5.3.1.2.4.7, and 5.3.1.3.8 of exhibit E, you state that topsoil would be removed and segregated to allow for revegetation of finished surfaces. Spoil materials would then be spread and compacted on significant portions of the ROW and would then be covered with topsoil. The fifth paragraph in section 5.3.4.3.1.1 of exhibit E states that the contractor would develop a plan to preserve vegetation to minimize erosion. This type of preservation does not appear possible if compacted fill were placed on undisturbed ROW surfaces. Please provide additional discussion regarding how placing compacted fill would be consistent with preserving existing vegetated surfaces in terms of future plant growth and erosion.**

UBWR Response:

In portions of the ROW not cleared and grubbed for trench excavation and other surface disturbing activities, the existing vegetation can be maintained during construction. The developed root systems help hold the soil in place, and even though construction equipment may be driving over the vegetation, the roots and the plant can still survive. This is particularly important for shrub and small tree species, which typically develop deeper root systems than herbaceous vegetation. Where shrub and small tree species are growing within the ROW that do not need to be cleared and grubbed as part of the excavation and related activities, these shrub and tree species would be identified under a contractor's plan and retained. During spreading of spoil materials within the ROW as part of the restoration, the retained shrubs and small trees would not be covered with spoil; the spoil materials would be spread and compacted around the retained shrubs and small trees. The compacted surface of the spread spoil materials would be scarified and then seeded as part of the revegetation activities. Therefore, the UBWR proposes to focus vegetation retention to help with erosion control within the ROW on shrub and small trees species that would not be disturbed (cleared and grubbed) for excavation and associated activities.