

0002

June 26, 1978

Memo to File:

Re: Valley Camp of Utah, Inc.
Utah #2 Mine
Carbon County, Utah
ACT/007/014

This underground coal mining operation was inspected on June 21, 1978 by Mike Thompson and Jim Smith from the Division with Trevor Whiteside, Mine Engineer, and Steve Tanner, Construction Engineer, from Valley Camp of Utah. The purpose of the visit was to view the operation in view of the Federal Regulations promulgated under P.L. 95-87.

The mine is situated in an alpine environment south of Scofield Reservoir between the old mining towns of Scofield and Clear Creek. Mud Creek, a perennial stream emptying into the reservoir, is adjacent to the mine site with two (2) intermittent drainage channels crossing the property. The vegetation in the area consists of two (2) types, a mixed conifer community on the north facing slopes and a mountain brush community on the remainder of the area.

According to Mr. Whiteside, the mine will shut down in July of this year, but the adjacent crusher and loading facility will remain to serve the Belina #1 Mine. A new truck pad is being constructed for the loading facility just north of the stockpile. Surface drainage for the disturbed area is diverted into ditches around the stockpile and into a retaining pond. Drainage from the natural channel to the east is diverted under the pad through a 42" culvert to Mud Creek. Overflow from the mine drainage holding tank is being discharged into the upstream end of the culvert and has an orange color indicating the presence of iron hydroxide and a probable acid condition. As the water leaves the culvert it picks up a small amount of coal fines which appear to have been blown into the drainage. Valley Camp of Utah has an NPDES permit for the mine discharge, but needs to correct the coal fines problem.

The surface pad in the portal area will be retained for an equipment storage area and was mentioned as a possible location for a sediment pond. There is a series of three (3) filtering ponds to handle mine discharge. However, these are presently inactive and not being used for the overflow from the mine discharge holding tank. These could also be used as sedimentation ponds.

A ditch above the five (5) portals diverts water from the undisturbed surface area. Railroad tracks along the western edge of the pad act as a

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a diversion to keep surface runoff away from Mud Creek.

A drilling road above the portal area has been regraded, scarified and reseeded and looks good.

JWS
JAMES W. SMITH
RECLAMATION SOILS SPECIALIST

JWS/jt

cc: Larry Lopez
OSM-Denver