



JLH ACT-007-001

United States Department of the Interior BELINA #1

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING

Reclamation and Enforcement

POST OFFICE BLDG. RM. 270

1823 STOUT STREET

DENVER, COLORADO 80202

0005

June 18, 1979



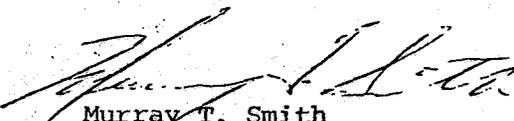
Mr. Ron Daniels
Coordinator of Mined Land Development
1588 N. West Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

Dear Mr. Daniels:

Enclosed please find copies of on-site inspection reports. The inspections were conducted within the BELINA #1 MINE during the period of April 16, 1979 and April 19, 1979.

If you have any questions or problems, please contact this office.

Sincerely,


Murray T. Smith
Federal Lands Coordinator

REGION V ON-SITE INSPECTION

VALLEY CAMP OF UTAH, INC.
BELINA #1
P.O. BOX 507
CLEAR CREEK, UTAH 84517

DATE: April 16, 1979 and April 19, 1979
TIME: 4:30 - 7:30 P.M. April 16, 1979
9:30 - 11:30 A.M. April 19, 1979
WEATHER: Cold and Snowing, Snow Cover on Ground
COUNTY AND STATE: Carbon County, Utah
STATE FILE NUMBER: ACT-007-001
COMPANY OFFICIALS: Trevor Whiteside, Bill Boulter
STATE OFFICIALS: Mary Ann Wright, Tom Suchoski, Mike Thompson,
Jim Smith
OSM OFFICIALS: Tom Ehmett, Ray Lewis, Gary Fritz

GENERAL COMMENTS

This company has two mines located a few miles S-SW of Scofield, Utah. Belina #2 is no longer an active mine, but the crusher and tipple is being used for the coal produced from the #1 mine. The #1 mine is located in a canyon cut by a tributary of Eccles Creek, about 6,000 feet south of the main canyon. There are two coal seams. The upper O'Connor coal seam has been mined extensively, but the lower O'Connor is being developed on a lower pad immediately below the active portals. Production is 200,000 to 250,000 tons per year from the 18 foot federal reserves. Time, weather and snow on the ground limited the mine inspection to a cursory overview that has left many questions unanswered.

COMPLIANCE WITH INTERIM REGULATIONS

717.11 General Obligations

The mining and reclamation plan was approved by the State Regulatory Authority on May 11, 1979. Belina #1 is a federally approved mine. All permits and authorizations to operate were acceptable.

717.12 Signs and Markers

The mine and permit identification signs observed at the access point to the tipple area and #1 mine were acceptable.

717.14 Backfilling and Grading/Disposal of Excess Waste

&

717.15 The benches and slopes in this area are hard to stabilize because a lot of freshwater springs have been exposed by development work on the upper and lower pads. The face of the lower pad that was next to the sediment pond on the upper pad, slumped the day before this inspection was made. The freezing weather and saturated spoil is going to delay any clean up work on the slide until midsummer.

Another slide along the haul road was on a steep tree covered slope that ran down into the drainage. A portion of the side railing for the road was also torn out when this slide occurred.

The Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining authorized a stream channel diversion at the #2 mine. The development material from the two pads was used to level the stream valley. The intermittent stream is being run through a corrugated pipe that is buried in the fill. The lower pad is going to be extended further on down the drainage so they are also going to extend the pipe.

717.17 Protection of the Hydrologic System

There is a sediment pond on the upper pad that is being used for mine water and surface runoff treatment. Snow was drifted around the pond so we could not see the primary spillway outlets. Another corrugated pipe was laid in front of the pond next to the portals so it was hard to determine what pipe was going where because of the landslide and snow bank next to the pond. However, Mr. Whiteside said that the effluent does comply with the interim standards.

Another pond is being built on the lower pad next to the downstream head of the fill in the stream channel. Diversions and spillways for the pond were not built yet.

Surface water is being monitored in several places but a few of the sites are not accessible in the winter. Ground water samples are taken in the mine.

Diversion ditches on the pads are not effective because the pads are not graded to drain so water is standing in several places and seeping through the bench in other spots along the lower pad face. Some of this water is from the springs that have been exposed but this surface water is recharging the aquifer.

717.20 Topsoil Handling and Revegetation

We did not notice any topsoil piles for reclamation but any new areas that are disturbed must have the A-horizon removed for re-distribution. Other horizons can be used but the regulatory authority must authorize the substitution.

The slopes along the haul road that were exposed have been planted since 1975 but the plant cover is not enough to reduce erosion to acceptable levels.

There are a lot of areas that need to be seeded but development work that is going to be done in the summer of '79 will redisturb most of the surface that should be planted.


THOMAS EHMETT
RECLAMATION SPECIALIST