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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING

Reclamation and Enforcement

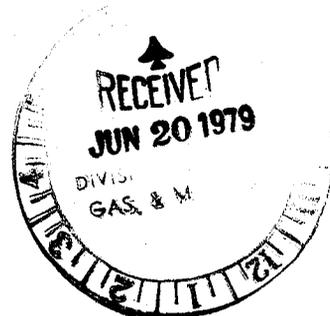
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DENVER, COLORADO 80202

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BELINA #1



Ron Daniels
Coordinator of Mined Land Development
Department of Natural Resources
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 Belina #1 and #2 Mines during the period of June 8, 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 & #2
P.O. Box 507
Clear Creek, Utah 84517

DATE: June 8, 1979
TIME: 8:45 A.M. to 11:20 A.M.
WEATHER: Cold, snow at the higher elevations
COUNTY AND STATE: Carbon Co., Utah
STATE FILE #: ACT-007-001
COMPANY OFFICIAL: Trevor Whiteside
OSM OFFICIALS: Gary Fritz, Eileen Doherty, Karen Laney

GENERAL COMMENTS

This was a follow-up inspection for the April 16th and 19th inspection. There was some confusion about the mine and tipple area that were identified on the last inspection report as the #2 and #1 sites. We stand to be corrected, the active mine is located in a canyon cut by a tributary of Eccles Creek - the state permit number is ACT-007-001 and the mine is Belina #1. The coal from the #1 mine is being trucked down to their tipple and loadout facility at the #2 mine.

Belina #2 is no longer an active mine but it is being maintained in hopes that the coal market will increase enough to allow re-entry for a lower seam. Various comments will be made about the respective sites, #1 and #2, in this report.

COMPLIANCE WITH INTERIM REGULATIONS

717.11 General Obligations

All copies of the current permits, licenses, approved plans or other authorizations to operate the Belina #1 was available for inspection at or near the mine site. We did not review the records to check the status of Belina #2 files, so this should be checked during a future inspection.

717.12 Signs and Markers

All signs that are required to be posted were observed at all points of access to the permit areas. While we were at the office, Mr. Whiteside asked us to review and comment about some of the signs that will be required for the permanent regulations. We found no problem with the design or lettering.

717.14 Backfilling and Grading

Belina #1 is still being developed. The upper O'Connor is being

mined and some construction, in addition to the paper work, has been done for the lower O'Connor. The bench and portal face have been cut but they are going to be changed. The lower pad is going to be pushed further down the drainage to make room for a temporary storage site for the coal until it can be carried overland by conveyor to the load out facility.

The stream that flows through this valley has been culverted but the proposed extension of the pad will go beyond the downstream end of the culvert. The lower sediment pond is also going to be moved from the north side of the canyon to lower point downstream on the south side.

Construction is also slated for the portal faces for both the upper and lower pads. The lower pad face has slumped off because of the underground spring water that saturates the entire area. Water was flowing out of the slump at several points so the ground will be difficult to work.

The haul road up to the #1 mine is also going to be enlarged because it is a joint venture between Valley Camp and Southern Utah Fuel. SUFCO plans to develop a mine in the area so they want to use the road too.

The #2 site is going to be upgraded along with everything else, according to Mr. Whiteside. The diversion structures and sediment control systems are being rebuilt in addition to building a new scale for the mine.

717.15 Disposal of Excess Rock and Earth Materials

There is no waste produced from this underground mine.

717.17 Protection of the Hydrologic System

A plan has been submitted and approved by the state for the upgrading of the surface operations to minimize disturbance of the prevailing hydrologic balance. At the present time little, if any, of the work has been done with the exception of the sediment pond on the upper pad. Specifications for the work have been drawn up and put out for bid but none were accepted as of the date of the inspection.

The sediment pond on the upper pad has been rebuilt since the April inspection. A gravel leach bed and dike in the middle of the pond acts as a filter for the mine water and runoff that is being discharged from the pond. Mr. Whiteside was not happy with the description of this pond that was discussed briefly in the April report. We reviewed the facts and decided that the snow and lack of communication caused a misunderstanding on our part. The pond was not short circuiting as we had previously described it. A pipe was discharging water down through the landslide on the lower pad but it was carrying water that was being diverted from the hillside above the upper

portals instead of the pond. The lower end of the discharge for the pond was not visible during the April inspection because of the snow.

The lower sediment pond for the #1 mine is not adequate but it is only a temporary structure because it will be moved to the other side of the drainage by this fall. The embankment was slumping in one place below the water line. Mr. Whiteside was not aware of the problem but he said that further investigation will be done and maintenance if necessary to prevent the dam from failing. The spillway has been put in but it was not graded or riprapped.

The whole area is inundated with natural springs that are saturating the development work. There is also snow on some of the high places for at least eight months out of the year.

The access road for the #1 mine that is going to be enlarged is in good shape now. It was graded to the inside and a curb is being maintained along the outside berm except an area that is being rebuilt because of a landslide.

The #2 mine has a series of sediment ponds and diversion ditches that are going to be rebuilt. A half round culvert is laid through the area to drain runoff from above the affected area to the main stream. Part of it ran under a conveyor so there was some coal in the drain. A new full round corrugated pipe was ordered and delivered but it has not been picked up yet.

I discussed a small slide above the working fan portal for the #2 mine. Mr. Whiteside said that he is going to watch it carefully. When it stabilizes, he is going to fix it because it could disable the fan.

717.20 Topsoil Handling and Revegetation

Mike Thompson indicated that the state has required Valley Camp to seed the disturbed areas this fall. I did not agree, but Mike and Mr. Whiteside both emphasized that most of the area will be re-affected in the short construction season this summer. They said that seed germination will be better after the snow melts next spring instead of waiting for infrequent summer rain.



GARY FRITZ
RECLAMATION SPECIALIST