

June 19, 1979

Memo to Coal File:

Re: Valley Camp of Utah
Belina Coal Mine
ACT/007/001

Valley Camp of Utah's Belina #1 Coal Mine was inspected on June 8, 1979 by Gary Fritz, Eileen Doherty and Karen Laney of OSM; Trevor Whiteside of Valley Camp; and Mike Thompson of the Division. The inspection was to complete the initial Federal inspection of April 19, 1979. Weather conditions at that time did not permit adequate observation of the site.

Since the inspection of April 19, 1979 the slump on the upper yard has ceased moving; however, seepage from a spring under the fill still exists. The flow has reduced somewhat. The company has hired Vaughn Hansen Associates to find the origin of the spring. Dye tests have been performed, but the source has not yet been conclusive.

Two temporary sediment ponds were functioning. Runoff from the upper pad area has^{been} channeled to the mine water discharge pond, that is equipped with gravel filters. The pond, since the last inspection, was treated with dye to see if it was contributing to the problem. Results showed dye reappearing in the hillside below the pond, ^{indicating that the pond} may have contributed to the slump. The pond was drained and clay implaced as a lining, and the pond was returned to a functioning condition.

The second pond, located on the lower level near the edge of the fill, contained runoff. The pond appears to be constructed on uncompacted fill material. Seepage occurs on the fill's downslope below the pond. Tension cracks also occur in the seepage area. Most of the runoff from the disturbed area is diverted to the pond; however, a shallow gully on the lower level, over the buried culvert diversion, indicates that some runoff bypasses the pond.

The loadout facilities at the Utah #2 Mine were also inspected. The mine is sealed and does not produce coal. However, the site, located on the D.R.G.W. rail system, is use as a load-out for the Belina coal. Three temporary functioning ponds are presently in use; one at the coal stockpile, one immediately north of the access road by the coal stockpile, and the old mine water discharge pond.

One obvious violation exists at the load-out site. The culvert intake by the water tank containing water from the Utah #1 Mine is not protected from runoff from the coal stockpile. The overflow from the tank should also be upgraded.

Several minor maintenance problems were discussed with Trevor Whiteside.

The issuance of Notices of Violations by the Federal agency for existing violations, where compliance studies and abatement proposals were submitted and approved by the State agency, and the work bids are out, was discussed. In this case N.O.V.'s were not issued. The need for a policy agreeable to both agencies became evident.

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ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST

KMT

cc: Region V, OSM, Attn: Murray Smith

Note: For accounting statistics see U.S. Steel memo of June 14, 1979

KMT/pf