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United States Department of the Interior  
OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING  
Reclamation and Enforcement  
[Redacted]  
DENVER, COLORADO 80202

Brooks Towers  
1020-15th Street

*File Copy  
Route First to  
Dong & Joe.  
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January 21, 1980

Mr. Ron Daniels  
Valley Camp of Utah, Inc.  
Belina #1 and #2  
Scofield Route  
Helper, Utah 84526

Dear Mr. Daniels:

Enclosed please find copies of on-site inspection reports. The inspections were conducted within Belina #1 and #2 during the period of December 4, 1979.

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

Sincerely,

Murray T. Smith  
Chief, Division of Inspection & Enforcement

REGION V ON-SITE INSPECTION REPORT

VALLEY CAMP OF UTAH, INC.  
BELINA #1 & #2  
Scofield Route  
Helper, Utah 84526

DATE: DECEMBER 4, 1979  
TIME: 10:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.  
WEATHER: Clear, no precipitation, snowmelt in afternoon  
COUNTY & STATE: Carbon, Utah  
COMPANY OFFICIALS: E.B. Foust, Chief Engineer; Joe Shoemaker, Engineer  
STATE OFFICIALS: Mike Thompson, Doug Stewart  
OSM OFFICIALS: D. Larry Damrau, Dennis Winterringer  
STATE FILE NO: ACT-007-001  
MSHA NUMBER: None  
NPDES NUMBER: None  
NOV NUMBER: 79-5-3-40

GENERAL COMMENTS

Reference is made to the June 8, 1979 inspection report by Gary Fritz, OSM Reclamation Specialist. That report is hereby corrected in that Belina #1 is an active underground mine, and Belina #2 is another underground mine in the site-construction phase just downslope from #1.

Utah #2 is an inactive underground mine which is being maintained and will become active if the market becomes more economically favorable.

The tipple and loadout facilities for all three of the active and inactive operations are located adjacent to the Utah #2 portals and rail sidings.

Belina #1, Belina #2, and Utah #2 were all inspected, and the trip served to fulfill OSM's semi-annual complete inspection duties.

COMPLIANCE WITH INTERIM REGULATIONS

717.11 General Obligations

All copies of current permits, licenses, approved plans and other authorizations to operate Belina #1 were available for inspection at or near the mine site. At the time of inspection, Belina #2 had not been permitted for coal mining by the State of Utah. However, according to Mike Thompson, Engineer for the Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining, the company had been granted permission to develop the Belina #2 surface facilities and faceup area. This permit apparently allowed Valley Camp of Utah, Inc., the right to extract an unspecified amount of coal from the disturbed developmental area.

717.12 Signs and Markers

The mine and permit identification signs were clearly visible and correctly located at the access road to Utah #2 and the road to

VALLEY CAMP OF UTAH, INC./BELINA #1 & #2

Belina #1 and #2. No problems with the information signs were noted.

717.14 Backfilling and Grading of Road Cuts, Mine Entry Cuts, and Other Surface Work Areas

No backfilling and grading of the road cuts or mine entry cuts is yet required at Belina #1 and #2 due to their active status.

Belina #1 is located on the upper O'Connor Seam, and Belina #2 is situated on the lower O'Connor Seam. The disturbances of both are contiguous, and some of the material from the Belina #1 solid bench has been spoiled downslope onto the Belina #2 disturbance. No problems were noted from this activity.

The State of Utah had authorized the company to channel the stream in the Belina #2 area through a culvert. Earth, rock, and other mineral nonwaste materials from the Belina #1 and #2 disturbances were then placed over the culvert. This area will eventually serve as the surface facilities area for Belina #2. There is a possibility that one day coal from both seams will be stockpiled there and shipped overland via conveyor to the Utah #2 tipple. The construction of the conveyor is tentative and dependent on future expansion of the underground workings, and the company's future coal market.

Difficulty was encountered in locating the downstream end of the stream culvert. After considerable searching, it was found in deep snow on the lower side of the sediment basin, which is located below Belina #2.

Excavation of rock and earth in the face up process was ongoing at Belina #1 as efforts to open new mine portals continue.

Violation Number 1 of NOV #79-5-3-40, of this section of the regulations was noted along the haul road in an unstable area where a slide had occurred. The inspectors observed a front end loader removing the slide material from the road ditch and placing it on the road fill downslope side in a steep slope (>20°) area. A request by OSM inspector D. Larry Damrau to discontinue the activity resulted in immediate voluntary cessation of the operation by the loader operator.

717.15 Disposal of Excess Rock and Earth Materials on Surface Areas

There are currently no excess rock and earth materials being transported to the surface from Belina #1.

717.17 Protection of the Hydrologic System

The initial review of all current permits and authorizations included inspection of the mines' NPDES permit and accompanying water quality data. Inspector Damrau discovered that the effluent

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limitations had been exceeded in some instances, but that the company had not reported it to the Environmental Protection Agency as stipulated in the NPDES permit. A September 24, 1979 letter from the State to the company indicating the need for such reporting had apparently not been heeded by Valley Camp of Utah, Inc. E. B. Foust was aware of the water quality effluent problems, and steps had been taken at the Belina #1 Mine to correct them. He said Vaughn Hanson and Associates, Salt Lake City, is the consulting firm which the company uses in it's water quality and sedimentation control projects. Mr. Foust thought that the consultant might be reporting the excesses of effluent limitations. Inspector Damrau's visit to the Vaughn Hanson and Associates office on December 7 revealed the firm was not making the reports for the company. The permittee should therefore take vigorous steps to insure that the reports of NPDES effluent limitation excesses be filed immediately after the occurrence. Failure to do so should hereafter be considered a knowing and willful violation.

At Belina #1 and #2 Mines, a partially completed sediment basin was in place downslope from the surface disturbances. Joe Shoemaker said it lacked only the placement of the overflow pipe and some additional riprapping of the emergency spillway to be complete. The OSM and State inspectors were not satisfied that Valley Camp of Utah, Inc. had expeditiously worked to complete the structure. Recent snows and melts had made conditions difficult for dam construction work, and it was understood that the present structure is a major revision of an already existing sediment pond. However, it did not appear that the company conscientiously attempted to complete the dam during earlier favorable weather.

A major problem of surface water drainage from the Belina #1 faceup area bypassing the pond was observed. Water runoff containing very high concentrations of suspended solids was leaving the faceup area and flowing into the ditch on the haul-access road. Violation #2 of Notice of Violation 79-5-3-40 was issued for this infraction of regulations.

A related problem concerned the failure of the company to maintain access and haulroads as required, resulting in Violation #3 of NOV 79-5-3-40. The runoff in the road ditch, which included the runoff from the new Belina #1 faceup, did not pass into culvert intakes along the ditch, due to snow and ice deposited in the intakes by a road grader in the snow clearing process. The result was surface water runoff bypassing the intakes and proceeding down the ditch in larger volumes and at a higher velocity, thereby carrying greater quantities of suspended solids than normally would leave the permit area. The need for more careful road maintenance was apparent.

The Utah #2 portal area and adjacent tipple and railroad loadout areas were inspected and determined to have two small water quality problems. The coal stacker is located immediately adjacent to the main sediment pond for the facilities, and at times coal has almost completely

VALLEY CAMP OF UTAH, INC./BELINA #1 AND #2

filled the pond. When the coal was removed, spillage occurred over the dam edge. That coal should be removed immediately. The other problem noted for the facilities was lack of water runoff control for the first 100 feet of access road off the main hard-surfaced county road. On one side of the haulroad a hay bale filter had been partially removed during snow clearing operations. The other side of the road had no runoff control, and small amounts of sediment, including coal fines, were passing directly into Mud Creek, a perennial stream. During times of high snow melt, moderate to high amounts of coal fines would pass into the stream. Joe Shoemaker was shown the problems and pledged to correct them.

717.20 Topsoil Handling and Revegetation

No topsoil stockpiles were observed at Belina #1, Belina #2, and Utah #2. The Belina #1 and Utah #2 are pre-law disturbances, but Belina #2 is not, and surface facilities are now being constructed. It is unknown if any topsoil was saved in this area, although it is possible some of all such material was used in construction of the sediment basin.

  
DENNIS WINTERRINGER  
RECLAMATION SPECIALIST