

January 14, 1982

0002

Inspection Memo
to Coal File:

RE: Belina #1 and 2 Mines
Valley Camp of Utah, Inc.
ACT/007/001
Carbon County, Utah

On October 27, 1981, Division Inspector David Lof visited the above-mentioned minesite. He was accompanied by Trevor Whiteside of Valley Camp. The purpose of the inspection was to determine whether or not NOV N81-3-11-2 had been properly abated, and to perform a partial inspection of the mine.

The NOV required the outlet pipe for the mine water discharge filter pond to be repaired. This had been accomplished, therefore, the inspector terminated the violation.

In discussing Stipulation 6-81-4, which was attached to an approval letter from the Division dated June 10, 1981, approving Valley Camp's request to mine the Carbon County lease, the operator contended that the stipulation was unreasonable and that all the culverts within the permit area were, in fact, in compliance. The Division inspector suggested to Mr. Whiteside that he discuss any concerns he had with the stipulation with Mr. Jim Smith, the Division's Coordinator of Mined Land Development.

On August 21, 1981, Valley Camp was given approval by the Division to utilize approximately 6,000 cubic yards of topsoil material produced at the Skyline minesite for reclamation of its disturbed sites within their permit area. The approval was accompanied by three stipulations, all of which have been addressed at this time. However, this topsoil has not been utilized yet due to the operator's present lack of reclamation/revegetation funds.

The Division has received an August 12, 1981, letter from Valley Camp stating that an in-house survey was conducted of all power lines in regard to raptor protection. It was conducted by Mr. Ed Foust of Valley Camp, who concluded that there were only two poles of questionable design and he felt that neither of these poles presented a hazard to raptors due to their location. Also, during the week of August 24-28, 1981, Ron Joseph of the Fish and Wildlife Service, conducted a field examination and made a determination on the basis of raptor behavior that Valley Camp's power lines would pose no problem to raptors. However, the Division has yet to make a final decision as to what will be required as far as raptor protection on power lines is concerned. This decision is expected to be forthcoming within the next few weeks.

The diesel tanks which had been situated on the edge of the shower house pad had been moved to a more secure location.

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While discussing underground development waste disposal, the operator explained that he did not anticipate making any development waste due to the thickness of the coal seam and if any was, in fact, made that it would be disposed of in the cross cuts underground.

While discussing snow removal residues with the operator he explained that the snow would be stockpiled principally along the southeastern perimeter of the mine area. He further explained that once the snow melted the residues, which are principally gravel and fill materials off the pads, will be grated back into the pad. At the time of the inspection, there was a small stockpile of snow located against the highwall east of the coal stockpile. The operator was asked to pull this pile away from the highwall because it was blocking drainage along the highwall.

During a July 9, 1981, complete inspection conducted by Mr. Tom Portle of the Division, a runoff problem concerning the Class III road to the topsoil stockpile and runoff from the substation was discussed. He suggested means of mitigating this problem. This is documented in a July 27, 1981, inspection memo concerning the inspection and an August 3, 1981, letter to Mr. Whiteside. The remedial action requested was completed prior to an August 24, 1981, inspection as is stated in a September 2, 1981, inspection memo. At the time of this inspection, the remedial actions appeared to be working as designed, however, while reviewing the mine plan, it appeared as though this area had not been adequately addressed on any of the maps showing the drainage system, i.e., map C-6 entitled Plan Map Belina Mines Portals Area. Being that the topsoil stockpile area, the Class III road to the topsoil stockpile, and the substation are all disturbed areas within the permit area, they should also be shown on a map illustrating the drainage for those areas. This memo should be considered as notice of these mine plan deficiencies, and the operator is requested to submit to the Division drainage plans (maps) for the above-mentioned areas. Submittal of said plans will help to expedite review of your mine plan by the Division's technical staff.

DAVID LOF
RECLAMATION OFFICER

cc: Tom Ehmett, OSM
Trevor Whiteside, Valley Camp
Inspection Staff

DL/btb

Statistics:

See Bishopgate Coal Corporation memo dated December 2, 1981
Grant: A & E