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ACT/007/014

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February 22, 1982

Inspection Memo
to Coal File:

RE: Valley Camp of Utah, Inc.
Utan #2 Mine
ACT/007/014
Carbon County, Utah

DATE:	December 17, 1981
TIME:	12:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
WEATHER:	Clear, Cool
COMPANY OFFICIALS:	Trevor Whiteside, Ed Foust
STATE OFFICIALS:	Sandy Pruitt, Ken Wyatt

Compliance with Permanent Performance Standards

771 et al Permits

Interim approval for the Utan #2 Mine was granted in a letter from the Division dated May 11, 1978.

817.11 Signs and Markers

The mine entrance sign was present, clearly legible and exhibited the required information. Buffer zone markers are placed along the boundary to Pleasant Valley Creek . One buffer zone sign located at the southeast corner of sediment pond #2 was damaged either by snow removal operations or the recent coal truck accident. In either case, this sign should be repaired.

817.13-.15 Casing and Sealing

The Utah #2 Mine portals have been partially fenced as a public safety measure and wildlife/livestock protection. The mine is classified as an active mine, hence, MSHA inspections are required and consequently access to the underground workings is periodically needed. It is interesting to note that wildlife are using one portal as shelter as evidenced by tracks in the snow.

817.21-.25 Topsoil

No topsoil is currently being stockpiled in the Utah #2 Mine area. Topsoil from the sediment pond excavations is located in the banks of these ponds. No new developments are anticipated that would require topsoil removal, storage and protection.

817.41-.52 Hydrologic Balance

Runoff from the undisturbed drainages east of the minesite is culverted underneath the disturbed areas and released into Pleasant Valley Creek. Runoff from disturbed areas is conveyed over graded pads into any of three sediment ponds.

Sediment pond #1 is located at the northern edge of the disturbed area and receives runoff from the east side of the railroad tracks north of the crusher house. Pond #2 is located northeast of the junction of the access road and State Highway 96. This pond receives runoff from the pad west of the railroad tracks, the truck turnaround road and the area around the coal stockpile. The third sediment pond is located on the south end of the disturbed area and receives runoff from disturbed areas south of the crusher house and stacking tower.

A recent accident occurred when a coal truck tipped over at the mine entrance on the south bank of sediment pond #2. A combination of coal and snow removal waste has obstructed the intended drainage channel that conveys disturbed area runoff into the sediment pond. This created some concern with the inspectors as a potential bypass of the berm could result causing runoff to flow west onto the road (Highway 96) and into Pleasant Valley Creek. Inspectors asked the operator to maintain the area to ensure that disturbed area runoff is channeled into the sediment pond. This area will be checked on future inspections.

817.52 Surface and Ground Water Monitoring

Valley Camp of Utah obtained a NPDES permit, #UT-0022985, from the EPA to allow discharge from the Utah sediment ponds into Pleasant Valley Creek. This permit expires June 6, 1982. A letter dated December 8, 1981, was observed requesting permit renewal for Valley Camp of Utah. Water quality data were examined for compliance and no violations were observed for the Utah #2 Mine area. Water monitoring data for the second and third quarter 1981 have been submitted to the Division.

817.57 Stream Buffer Zones

The #2 sediment pond is located adjacent to Pleasant Valley Creek, therefore, a stream buffer zone sign is required. The sign currently placed at the southeast corner of the sediment pond has been damaged by snow removal activities. This sign should be repaired or replaced.

817.61 Use of Explosives

No explosives are being used on this minesite.

817.71-.73 Disposal of Underground Development Waste and Excess Spoil and Nonacid and Nontoxic-forming Coal Processing Waste

Due to the status of this mine, no underground development wastes are being generated at this time.

817.81-.93 Coal Processing Waste

Since the Utah #2 Mine is being used as a loadout for the Belina Mines, coal is not processed here but instead is sized and stored until shipment.

817.89 Disposal of Noncoal Waste

Noncoal waste is temporarily stored in dumpsters located on the pad adjacent to the shop. Periodically, these dumpsters are hauled to a local landfill for disposal.

817.97 Protection of Fish, Wildlife and Related Environmental Values

In an August 12, 1981, letter from Mr. Foust, he stated the power lines in Valley Camp's Utah and Belina mines had two questionable poles in relation to raptor protection. These poles are supposedly located in areas not favorable for perching. A letter from the Division dated September 2, 1981, suggests that Valley Camp contact the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) or the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) to request a field determination of the two questionable poles. A letter dated October 9, 1981, from the USFWS concerning power line configuration at nine coal mining operations, did not recommend that Valley Camp modify their poles at this time. However, a more comprehensive study is to be conducted by USFWS with results being released by February 1982.

817.111-.117 Revegetation

Hydromulching had been done on the banks of the sediment ponds in December 1980. The degree of success of these revegetation attempts should be examined when the snow has melted this spring to determine if adequate protection is provided by this vegetation.

817.121-.126 Subsidence Control

Subsidence is measured by two methods. Vaughn Hansen, Inc., performs ground surveys and the U. S. Forest Service performs aerial photogrammetric flyovers.

817.150-.176 Roads

Roads in the Utah #2 loadout facility appear to be maintained adequately with the exception of the access road as it turns off Highway 96. Here, as mentioned above in the Hydrologic Balance section, the recent accident involving coal spillage has left coal blocking the intended drainage channels to sediment pond #2. This area should be maintained in the future to ensure runoff from the disturbed area is reaching the sediment pond as designed.

Ken Wyatt
KEN WYATT
RECLAMATION OFFICER

cc: Tom Ehmett, OSM
Trevor Whiteside, Valley Camp of Utah, Inc.
Inspection Staff

KW/btb

Statistics:

See Bear Creek memo dated January 5, 1982
Grant: A & E