

state of utah

ACT/007/002 #3

~~TO Wayne~~
cc: Sue
Ken



DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

DOUGLAS F. DAY
Director

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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Reply To SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE
455 West Railroad Avenue, Box 840, Price, Utah 84501
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April 20, 1984

Mr. Steve Smith
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
4241 State Office Building
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

RECEIVED
JIM
APR 30 1984
APR 25 1984
DIVISION OF OIL
GAS & MINING

Dear Steve:

On April 18, 1984 Mr. Trevor Whiteside, representing Valley Camp Coal Company, advised Utah Division of Wildlife Resources of a mud slide in the Eccles Creek drainage area that impacted Eccles Creek. Larry Dalton and Walt Donaldson of the Division of Wildlife Resources, Southeastern Regional Office, inspected the mud slide situation and found that there were two slides; one approximately 100 feet wide, and the other approximately 30 feet wide. Both slides occurred in an area where slides have occurred in 1977 and 1978. The largest slide has blocked the flow of water in the creek. However, in a short period of time Eccles Creek washed under that slide. Obvious results are excessive sedimentation of Eccles Creek. The slides are a result of earlier construction of the Belina Mine access road, and are located in the NW 1/4 of Sec. 19, T 13 S, R 7 E, Carbon County, Utah.

Valley Camp Coal Company took immediate remedial action of placing a series of temporary sediment traps in the stream immediately below the major slide area. The Division was consulted on what else they should do in order to safeguard the area, and ultimately restore the stream channel. Mr. Whiteside was advised that he must contact the area office for the State Engineer, as well as the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining concerning this problem. He was further advised that he would need to secure and prepare an application form 93R for permit to alter a natural stream.

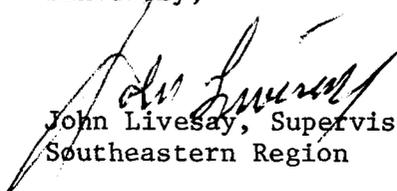
It is recommended by the Division of Wildlife Resources that a new stream channel approximately 450 feet long be developed to the north of the existing channel and much closer to the newly constructed state highway. The new stream channel should have 4-6 meanders. Each of the meanders should be armored with heavy rip rap on the cutting streambank, and the gradient of the new channel should not exceed that of the old channel. At the time that the new channel is completed, it should be open allowing water to enter it, and the old channel should be backfilled. This new channel should be of sufficient size to accommodate spring run-off flows, approximating 60 cfs. The enclosed drawing generally describes the construction of the channel. In addition, two small earthen berms on each side of the creek should be constructed to deter loose fill from entering the stream.

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It is estimated that the total disturbed area, including the two landslide areas, will be something greater than .6 acres. This area should be seeded during the spring season at a point when the water saturated condition has dried out enough to allow hydro-spraying. The hydro-spray prescription should be identical to that which Valley Camp of Utah utilized in the same area during the fall of 1983. Additionally, along the stream bottom, willow shoots from local stock should be planted at a rate of 1,000 stems per acre. This equals approximately a spacing of 4.3 feet apart. The willows should not be planted until later into the growing season when high waters have subsided and a thalweg has been developed within the newly constructed channel. Valley Camp should be required to maintain the temporary straw silt basins downstream from the slide and construction area until the waters are cleared. This may necessitate periodic cleaning of the sediments that are caught behind straw bales and/or replacement of the straw bales. It should be noted that excavated materials need to be loaded into an appropriate vehicle and hauled away into an area to be discarded and not left on the bank where they would be washed back into the stream during the next precipitation event. The bench that is being formed to the south of the stream channel by the sluffing off from the slide area should not be planted with trees and shrubs until the fall season of 1984. This will allow the snow and ice inter-mixed with the mud to melt, and for the ground to settle. Then during the fall this area should be planted as per seed prescriptions already approved for the Belina Mine Complex. It is important to note that the hydro-spraying of a seed tackifier and wood fiber mulch must take place as soon as practical in order to preclude further movement of sediments into the stream.

Thank you for an opportunity to provide comment.

Sincerely,



John Livesay, Supervisor
Southeastern Region

JL:LBD:db

