September 13, 1984

TO: Memo to Coal File, Inspection and Enforcement

FROM: Tom Wright, Mining Field Specialist TW

RE: Valley Camp of Utah, Belina Complex, ACT/007/001, Folder #7, Carbon County, Utah

A partial inspection of the Valley Camp mine was conducted on August 15, 1984 by Mining Field Specialist Ken Wyatt and Tom Wright. The purpose of this inspection was to examine the pumping of the mine Sediment Pond #4. Valley Camp has permission from the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining to pump this pond as long as effluent standards and regulations are met. This pond is being pumped so that sediment build-up can be cleaned out.

Trevor Whiteside of Valley Camp was contacted and Steve Tanner accompanied us on the inspection. At the time of the inspection the weather was cool and rainy.

Water Samples were collected for testing by the Utah State Health Laboratory from several locations to check for impacts from the pumping. The results of these analyses are listed below:

TABLE 1

WATER SAMPLING DATA

SAMPLE	LOCATION	TIME	TSS mg/l
1	Sediment Pond #4 discharge	1500	14
2	Undisturbed Culvert outlet	1510	780
3	Eccles Creek 50' below confluence with Whiskey Gulch	1617	430
4	Whiskey Gulch discharge into Eccles Creek.	1619	1,540
5	Eccles Creek above Whiskey Gulch confluence	1621	53
6	Sediment Pond #4 discharge	1700	123

A two pump system was being used to remove the water from the sediment pond. Originally the operator was using one unit but the time required to pump out the pond with this was prohibative.

The first pump used was a small portable unit which had been placed on the embankment and was pumping water directly into the emergency spillway. A sample of the discharge from the pump was collected from the spillway below the unit at 3:00 p.m..

The second unit being used was a large tanker truck with a pump unit on board. Water from the sediment pond was pumped directly into the tank and transported to the Valley Camp loadout for treatment in Sediment Pond #3

While water was being pumped into the tanker, Specialist Wyatt checked the undisturbed bypass outlet for the Whiskey Gulch drainage. Water from the discharge was cloudy in color and appeared to be carrying a heavy sediment load. A sample of this discharge was collected for testing at 3:10 p.m.. By the time we finished examining the mine pad the tanker truck had finished pumping and left for the coal loadout. When we arrived at the loadout the tanker unit was pumping into the sediment pond. At this time Mr. Tanner returned to the Valley Camp office.

Inspector Wyatt and I went to the upper reaches of Eccles Creek to examine the water quality at the point just below the Skyline Mine. Other locations on the creek were checked down to the point where Whiskey Gulch entered Eccles Creek.

Water Quality in Whiskey Gulch appeared heavily impacted. The drainage was impacted as a result of recent storms in the area. Color of the water was muddy and sediment loading was very evident. Water samples were collected above and below the confluence for testing. Because of the sediment load being carried by Whiskey Gulch and the impact on Eccles Creek we returned to the Valley Camp Mine to determine if the degredation of the water was a result of mining activities.

The tanker truck was again on the site pumping another load for transfer to the loadout pond. While we were on the area the pumping was completed and the truck left the site for the loadout.

Inspector Wyatt collected a second sample from the Sediment Pond #4 discharge for testing at 5:00 p.m. No activity other than pumping of the sediment pond was on going on the lower pad at this time and we were unable to locate any cause of water degradation done by mining activiry.

re TW

cc: Donna Griffin, OSM
Trever Whiteside
Joe Helfirch
Sue Linner

Statistics: See Utah Power and Light's Wilberg mine memo dated September 4, 1984

00350-11-13