0003

January 21, 1985

TO: Inspection Memo to Coal File

FROM: Sandy Pruitt, Mining Field Specialist SP

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

The Belina Mine site was inspected by Sandy Pruitt accompanied by Steve Tanner, Valley Camp, on January 17, 1985.

Runoff was occurring at the time of this inspection and drainage control measures appeared functional, although somewhat obstructed by snow accumulations. The water level in the sediment pond had risen since the last inspection to the level of the decant opening in the standpipe. The decant valve was open and discharge was occurring. This inspector heard the discharge water flow, but a sample was not obtained because of the difficult access through snow. Water quality in the sediment pond appeared good.

Since Valley Camp does not have approval for continuous discharges through the decant structure, the decant valve was closed at this time. There were no tracks in the snow up to the sediment pond or discharge point to indicate that the decant valve had been opened recently, or the sediment pond discharge sampled lately. Steve Tanner was not aware that the discharge was occurring, but mentioned that the valve was open to prevent freezing in the pipe that would restrict water flow through the pipe when necessary.

Steve discussed a concern that ice lenses forming in the sediment pond, from the intermittent runoff during late afternoon thaws, that freezes in the pond every night, will fill it in and reduce the detention capacity as water flows over the ice to the discharge pipe. Valley Camp has considered discharging mine water into the sediment pond to thaw the ice, but this would be in violation of approved plans. Water from the treatment plant was considered also, but reportedly, due to the high chlorine concentrations in the treated water, State Health hasn't approved the water so that discharge into the sediment pond would present a compliance problem also. Steve Tanner requested DOGM assistance for a solution to this problem.

Valley Camp did not attempt to revegetate the stream rechannelization area or slide in September-October, 1984 as committed in the approved plans. Steve Tanner contended that they are waiting to see if the slope will remain stable after snow melt this Spring. Trevor Whiteside maintains that the regrading was not completed until snow fall. Following this inspection, the photographs on file of this area were examined by this inspector. Stream rechannelization was reported complete and appeared adequately regraded by June, 1984. Some backfilling necessary at

the base of the slide was completed in September, 1984. No grading or slope restabilization was attempted on the slide itself due to its steepness, much of the slide itself appears to be rock. It is likely to remain stable.

In a letter dated July 27, 1984, which was required for approval of the slide stabilization, stream rechannelization plans, Valley Camp committed to revegetate the channel change area in fall (September-October). The rechannelization work was completed and fall seeding was possible, but Valley Camp made no attempts as committed.

The July 27, 1984 letter further states that as soon as the slide material on the south side of the stream is dry enough to work the area will be leveled and revegetated. This area was not leveled until September, 1984. Trevor Whiteside reports that heavy snow fall occurred during the first week of October precluding revegetation attempts thereafter. By this report, the early snow fall may have forestalled seeding the backfill area at the base of the slide. But there is nothing apparent to impede revegetation efforts on the slide itself or the areas past the backfill.

By missing the Fall seeding time, the seed germination and revegetation success is diminished. Enforcement action is pending due to Valley Camp's failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the approved plans and seed the disturbed areas during the first favorable planting conditions. DOGM is currently developing mitigation plans. It may be deemed necessary to establish a cover crop with Spring seeding of oats and barley to provide erosion control and stabilization until more favorable conditions for seeding the permanent mix during Fall.

Spring is the best time to plant willow cuttings. Steve Tanner plans to cut willows while dormant and plant them directly. This is a tentative plan that will require perfect timing to get the willows planted before buds form. Also, there is a problem of desiccation if the willows are planted too far in advance of the growing season. Following this inspection, I researched methods for planting willow cuttings. Utah Fuel Company planted willow cuttings last Spring with a reported 96% success rate. The willow cuttings were cut when dormant, in early April, in 10 to 12 inch plugs. The cuttings were tied in bundles of 25 with the same end up, for easy

planting. The bundles were placed in a black plastic bag with a handful of snow and put in a snow cache. The willow cuttings were then planted along the stream bank during the first week of June, after high runoff conditions.

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cc: Steve Tanner, Valley Camp
Donna Griffin, OSM
Steve Cox, DOGM
Joe Helfrich, DOGM
Lynn Kunzler, DOGM
Sue Linner, DOGM
Tom Suchoski, DOGM
Statistics:
See Co-op Mine memo dated January 16, 1985
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