

Document Information Form

Mine Number: cl007/004

File Name: Incoming

To: DOGM

From:

Person N/A

Company N/A

Date Sent: OCTober 9, 1979

Explanation:

Memo TO Coal File.

cc:

File in: cl 007, 004, Incoming

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Date _____ For additional information

October 9, 1979

Memo to Coal File:

RE: Braztah Complex
ACT/007/004
Carbon County, Utah

On September 20th and 21st, 1979 a joint State-Federal inspection of Braztah Corporation's underground coal mining complex currently consisting of the #3 and #5 mines and the Castle Gate Preparation Plant and Loadout Facility was conducted by Division personnel Jim Smith, Joe Helfrich and Doug Stewart and Office of Surface Mining representative Gary Fritz.

The Castle Gate area was inspected on the 20th after visiting Braztah's office in Helper and reviewing their files with Mr. Boyd Harvey, Vice President of operations. Also present was Mr. Muriel Jarrett, Superintendent of the Preparation Plant. Mr. Gene Haub, one of the Preparation Plant supervisors, accompanied the group during the on-site inspection. The area for the proposed #6 and #6a Mines was also visited.

Mr. Ken Hutchinson, Chief Engineer, along with Mr. Harvey, accompanied Division and Office of Surface Mining personnel on the 21st during inspection of the #3 and #5 Mines in Hardscrabble Canyon and Sowbelly Gulch respectively.

Violations of the interim period regulations observed during the two days of inspection were:

1. Failure to control all runoff and sediment from disturbed surface areas for the entire complex.
2. Failure to submit surface and groundwater monitoring plans for the entire complex.
3. Failure to have an NPDES permit for discharge from the existing sediment pond at the #5 mine.
4. Failure to save topsoil from construction of the refuse disposal facility in Schoolhouse Canyon at Castle Gate.
5. Failure to have approval for constructing the refuse disposal facility in Schoolhouse Canyon. (Issued by the Office of Surface Mining only).

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Golder Associates submitted a "conceptual design" plan to the Division in February of this year and the Division's comments were returned in April. To this date, no response has been received regarding the Division's comments and to the Division's knowledge, little work has been done to bring the complex into compliance.

At Castle Gate several areas were observed to be allowing coal-laden sediment to enter the Price River; specifically a drainage channel under the railroad tracks from the old pump house, the bridge above the upper entry gate, and a four-foot diameter concrete culvert just upstream from the mine conveyor. A small pond below the new thickener does collect some runoff from the upper yard area. A 3 million gallon capacity pond for plant makeup water is located upstream from the plant. Trash has been deposited in Barn Canyon and is supposed to be hauled away as soon as Union problems can be worked out and someone can be contracted to do the work. Two piles of old refuse or waste material containing a lot of dirt and some vegetation had been deposited by 55 ton trucks on top of the refuse disposal facility in Schoolhouse Canyon.

The 5,000 gallon water storage tank at the #5 Mine had overflowed, crossed the disturbed area, and entered the natural drainage. A new 75,000 gallon tank is proposed to replace the old one and this drainage problem will be corrected at that time. The existing sediment pond here contains a lot of trash and debris and needs to be cleaned.

An old refuse pile above the #3 Mine has been regraded and a drainage diversion was installed approximately one month ago, which needs to be rip-rapped.

A sediment pond is proposed below the refuse pile. Braztah is waiting for more money from A.E.P. to finish removing the junk, spreading topsoil, and seeding the area. They want to get an analysis of the refuse to determine toxicity and combustibility of the material in hopes of reducing the amount of soil needed to cover the pile.

JWS
JAMES.W. SMITH, JR.
RECLAMATION SOILS SPECIALIST

cc: Murray Smith, O.S.M.

Note: for travel statistics see Co-op Mine memo dated September 24, 1979.

JWS/te