

0034

Document Information Form

Mine Number: C10071004

File Name: Internal

To: DOGM

From:

Person N/A

Company N/A

Date Sent: MAY 13, 1982

Explanation:

INSPECTION MEMO TO COAL FILE.

cc:

File in:
C/ _____, _____, Internal

Refer to:

- Confidential
- Shelf
- Expandable

Date _____ For additional information

May 13, 1982

Inspection Memo
to Coal File:

RE: Price River Coal Company
Price River Complex
ACT/007/004
Carbon County, Utah

DATE: March 10, 11 and 12, 1982
TIME: 2:15 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.; 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; and, 8:30
a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
WEATHER: Partly Cloudy and Warm
COMPANY OFFICIAL: Rob Wiley
STATE OFFICIAL: David Lof
ENFORCEMENT ACTION: NOV N82-4-4-2

Compliance with Permanent Performance Standards

771 et al Permits

Available at the mine office was an April 27, 1977, letter from the Division granting final approval of Price River's Mining and Reclamation Plan. Other approval letters from the Division available at the mine office were as follows:

1. A September 2, 1981, approval letter for the utilization of the lower yarding area at Crandall Canyon for materials lay down.
2. A November 12, 1981, approval for the Crandall Canyon road construction.
3. A February 3, 1982, approval to discharge water intercepted during shaft development at the Crandall Canyon shaft facilities.

817.11 Signs and Markers

Mine identification signs with complete information were posted at all points of access to the operation. The operator is currently in the process of posting perimeter markers. Buffer zone markers were in place as required along Willow Creek.

817.21-.25 Topsoil

PRC has two topsoil stockpiles located up Crandall Canyon. Both are adequately protected and the stockpile midway up the canyon has some vegetative growth.

File in:

- Confidential
- Shelf
- Expandable

Refer to Record No 0034 Date 5-13-82

In CI 007, 004, Internal

For additional information

817.41-.57 Hydrologic Balance

Sowbelly Canyon

The undisturbed drainage which is located west of sediment pond 005, and its associated storage area, is supposed to be diverted around the storage yard via diversion ditches on either side of the disturbed area. At the time of the inspection, the diversion was not completed around the west end of the storage area in order to connect the diversions on either side. This was pointed out to the operator who had the diversion completed the next day.

There are three sediment ponds located in Sowbelly Canyon. Pond #3 is located by the bathhouse trailers. It has an overflow culvert which would carry any excess runoff to pond #4 which is located just south of the warehouse trailer and storage sheds. This pond in turn overflows into pond #5 via an overflow culvert. Pond #5 did not have any sort of emergency spillway to safely discharge runoff from a 25-year, 24-hour precipitation event, therefore, NOV N82-4-4-2, #2 of 2 was written. It reads as follows:

Nature of the Violation:

Failure to provide an appropriate combination of principle and emergency spillways to safely discharge the runoff from a 25-year, 24-hour precipitation event or larger event specified by the Division.

Provision of the Regulations Violated:

UMC 817.46(i).

Portion of the Operation to Which Notice Applies:

Sowbelly Canyon, #5 Mine sediment pond 005.

Remedial Action Required:

Submit adequate plans to the Division detailing the design and construction of a spillway for sediment pond 005. Implement said plan immediately upon Division approval.

Time for Abatement:

Thirty (30) days, no later than April 16, 1981.

Runoff from an old road north of the mine fan was being conveyed off the fan pad down to the pad below causing excessive erosion on the downslope. The Division inspector requested that the operator construct a diversion so that the runoff would be conveyed past this point in order to eliminate erosion problem on the downslope. The operator was given 30 days in order to comply with this request.

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There were also several small maintenance problems which the operator was requested to address within 30 days. They are as follows: (a) Repair the berm west of the warehouse trailer; (b) riprap the inlets to pond #4; (c) clean the outlet of the undisturbed drainage culvert across the road from pond 005 and riprap below the outlet; and (d) clean the undisturbed drainage diversion east of the batnhouse trailers.

Hardscrabble Canyon

The primary hydrologic problem at the #3 mine had to do with the open undisturbed stream channel which passes through the upper portion of the mine yard. There were several problems along this stream channel which the operator was asked to address.

1. Southwest of the north fan, where the channel is open prior to going under the bridge to #4 Mine, the inspector felt that there had been excessive contributions of additional sediment and coal fines to the undisturbed channel. A portion of this contribution was probably from the disturbed area to the west of the channel, therefore, the operator had straw bales placed along the edge of the disturbed area to prevent any further contribution of additional sediment.
2. There were several holes in the surface of the above-mentioned bridge which would allow disturbed area runoff into the undisturbed drainage below. In discussing the problem with the operator, it was found that they had already scheduled to do some maintenance work on the bridge within the next several days.
3. The outlet of the culvert which conveys disturbed area runoff under the bridge was partially blocked by material which had sloughed into the drainage. The operator committed to having this cleaned prior to the next inspection.

The undisturbed drainage ditch on the south side of Dog Flat and the straw bales at the northeast corner of Dog Flat required some maintenance work due to snow removal and other activities in the area. The operator committed to having this work done within 30 days.

Willow Creek

The undisturbed drainage ditch north of the storage shed in Willow Creek was not completed. The operator was asked to have this completed within 30 days. The rest of the area including ditches, berms and settling basins appeared to be in good condition.

Castlegate Facilities

Directly southwest of the water treatment plant is a clear water overflow pond which discharges excess clean water from the treatment plant into the the Barn Canyon undisturbed drainage channel. It was observed that snow removal waste material from the adjacent disturbed area had been placed on the south embankment of the pond. Due to the fact that this is supposed to be a clear water overflow pond and not a sediment pond for the disturbed area, the operator was given 30 days in order to have the snow removal waste removed from the inside of the embankment.

The northeast inlet to the thickener overflow pond was blocked. Because of this, a berm was breached and a gully formed on the downslope to the pond. The gully was approximately two to three feet deep and anywhere from one to two and a half feet wide. The operator was asked to backfill this gully and properly maintain the inlet to the pond. Also, it was noticed that the overflow pond was quite full of sediment, therefore, causing some concern whether or not the overflow pond would be capable of containing an emergency discharge from the thickener. The operator explained that the cleaning of the overflow pond required a dragline and that they do have a dragline scheduled for the last week in June in order to clean out the pond.

The operator was in the process of establishing an undisturbed drainage diversion around the east and north sides of the new stack tube pad. Upon completion of the diversion, it will discharge into Price River. The operator should send to the Division a brief narrative and sizing calculations on the diversion and the culvert which will be installed to carry the undisturbed drainage underneath the road and into the river.

West of the clean coal stockpile it was questionable whether or not the disturbed area runoff was being contained within the permit area. The operator was asked to better define the drainage patterns in this area to ensure that the disturbed area runoff was contained within the permit area.

The sediment basin at Utah Fuel #1 was almost completely full of sediment. The operator was asked to have the basin cleaned within 30 days. On March 29, Mr. Wiley called Mr. Lof and informed him that they would not be able to have the sediment basin cleaned by the end of the 30 days due to equipment breakdown, however, they would have the sediment basin cleaned as soon as possible.

Crandall Canyon

At the time of the inspection, the culvert for the main channel crossing by the yarding area was in place, however, the channel relocation had not been completed. Due to the amount of disturbance in the area, the inspector requested that the operator place several straw bale dikes in the stream, below the construction area, in order to provide some treatment for the water

prior to entering Price River. This was complied with during the course of the inspection. The inspector also requested that the diversion ditch on the north side of the yarding area be properly maintained and repaired within 30 days.

At the shaft development area, the operator was in the process of building a retaining wall along the stream channel diversion. Due to the construction activity immediately adjacent to the stream channel, the operator had placed straw bales in the stream channel below the shaft area. Upon inspection of the straw bales, it was determined that they were not functioning properly and the operator was asked to reinstall the bales so that they would properly filter the stream flow. While walking back up the stream channel from the straw bales, Mr. Lof and Mr. Wiley observed a berm intentionally breached to allow disturbed area runoff to drain off the #2 shaft development pad. Approximately 600 gallons of runoff at approximately 100,000 parts per million left the permit area. This runoff entered the ephemeral stream channel, which flows into the Price River and had appeared to be fairly clear prior to the disturbed runoff entering it. Mr. Wiley immediately had the backhoe operator repair the berm. If he hadn't done so, 3,000-4,000 gallons more of the above-described runoff would have left the permit area within a matter of 10 minutes or less. Due to the obvious negligence involved, Notice of Violation N82-4-4-2, #1 of 2 was written. It reads as follows:

Nature of the Violation:

Failure to pass all surface drainage from the disturbed area through a sedimentation pond or treatment facility prior to leaving the permit area.

Provisions of the Regulations Violated:

UMC 817.42(a)(1).

Portion of the Operation to Which the Notice Applies:

Crandall Canyon shaft #2 development pad.

Remedial Action Required:

Ensure that all runoff is passed through the sediment pond.

Time for Abatement:

Immediately.

817.52 Surface and Ground Water Monitoring

PRC's discharge points are covered by NPDES permit #UT-0023086 issued September 29, 1977. The expiration date of the permit is June 30, 1982. The operator has made reapplication for a new permit. At the time of the inspection, water monitoring data through December of 1981, were available at

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the office. Also available at the mine office was a March 10, 1982, letter from Price River Coal Company to EPA and copied to the Division and the Utah Department of Health. The letter was a notification to the agencies that pond 014, covered by the NPDES permit, was failing to meet the TSS effluent limitations due to an unintentional short-circuiting of a portion of the inflow to the pond. The problem was first noticed the morning of March 9. The problem had been corrected by March 12.

817.81-.93 Coal Processing Waste

During the winter, due to some poor road conditions, the operator was not able to traverse the haul road to the coal refuse dump. Because of this, the operator had to on occasion stockpile refuse on the new stack tube pad. Since there is no longer any problem reaching the refuse dump, the operator was asked to have the refuse removed from the stacking tube pad.

817.150-.176 Roads

The Class III road to the water tank at the #5 Mine was showing signs of excessive erosion. The operator was asked to regrade and establish proper drainage controls within 30 days.

DAVID LOF *TLB for DL*
RECLAMATION OFFICER

cc: Tom Ehmett, OSM
Rob Wiley, Price River Coal Company
Inspection Staff

DL/btb

Statistics:

See Belina #1 and #2 Mine memo dated May 6, 1982
Grant: A & E