

### Document Information Form

Mine Number: C/007/004

File Name: Internal

To: DOGM

From:

Person N/A

Company N/A.

Date Sent: FEBRUARY 22, 1982

Explanation:

INSPECTION MEMO TO COAL FILE.

cc:

File in:  
C/007, 004, Internal

Refer to:

- Confidential
- Shelf
- Expandable

Date \_\_\_\_\_ For additional information

February 22, 1982

Inspection Memo  
to Coal File:

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

On Thursday, February 4, 1982, Division Inspectors Dave Lof and Ken Wyatt contacted Mr. Rob Wiley at Price River Coal Company's (PRCC) offices in Helper for the purpose of conducting a complete quarterly inspection. Mr. Wiley informed inspectors he was going on vacation the next day until February 15, 1982. As a result, a brief tour of PRCC's facilities ensued to familiarize inspectors with the layout of the operation. A brief description of each facility follows, including any problem areas observed.

The Crandall Canyon facility is currently being developed. This development is being undertaken to provide easier access for men and materials to the underground workings of the #3, 4 and 5 mine. Following completion of Crandall Canyon, Hardscrabble Canyon and Sowbelly Gulch facilities will be phased out over a period of approximately three years. Activities being conducted at the time of this inspection included the two shaft excavations, the bathhouse/office pad filling and upgrading of the access road.

According to Mr. Wiley, the intake and exhaust shafts are presently at approximately 300 and 200 feet, respectively, with a final depth expected at 1,400 and 1,450 feet, respectively. PRCC requested Division approval to discharge approximately 100,000 gallons of water per day. Of this, 87,500 gallons will be discharged into the Crandall Creek stream channel and 12,500 gallons will be retained for drilling and potable water supplies. This water was encountered during excavation of the alluvial material strata in the intake shaft. Approval was granted February 3, 1982. However, at the time of this inspection, water was no longer being intercepted and no discharge has occurred.

Shaft excavation material is being used as fill material for the bathhouse/office pad, the parking pad and the exhaust shaft/sewage treatment pad.

The access road to the facility was being upgraded into a Class II road. Work had been conducted on the road for about three days. No sediment control measures were employed along the road at the time of this inspection. Mr. Wiley insured inspectors that a berm would be constructed along the fill side of the road as soon as the major earth work and heavy machinery were finished. This should be checked during subsequent inspections.

Other areas inspected in Crandall Canyon were the berms protecting the undisturbed drainage south of the air intake shaft and east of the diesel storage tanks. It appeared to be adequately bermed, however, snow depth created obscure inspection conditions.

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- Confidential
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Refer to Record No. 0039 Date 2-22-82

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The Willow Creek Mine area is an inactive minesite that PRCC intends to upgrade and bring into production within a few years. Currently, materials are stored here and the area was used as a helicopter pad during the recent power line installation at Crandall Canyon.

Perimeter markers in the form of blue flagging have been posted along the disturbed areas. More permanent markers in the form of painted roof bolts are currently being made. Mr. Wiley informed inspectors that the installation of these more permanent markers is pending Division policy concerning the requirements for this area. A berm is located along the creek on the southeast side of the disturbed area to prevent runoff from the disturbed area from entering Willow Creek. Buffer zone signs were observed posted along this berm.

The Hardscrabble Canyon facilities encompass the #3 and #4 Mine. A tunnel approximately one mile long connects the #3 Mine by conveyor to the Utah Fuel #1 loadout facility. Coal from the #4 Mine is hauled to Castlegate Prep Plant by truck.

Inspectors expressed concern for the protection of the undisturbed drainages. Several areas were observed where snow removal wastes have been pushed into the undisturbed drainages creating obstructions and contamination. The operator was asked to re-establish all undisturbed drainages in the area and attempt to keep them maintained.

The #5 Mine is located in Sowbelly Gulch. No surface coal handling occurs in this area and none is anticipated in the future. Undisturbed drainages in the area are culverted beneath the access road into the natural channel on the east side of this road. Berms are located along the perimeter of the disturbed area to prevent any disturbed area runoff from leaving the permit area prior to treatment in a sediment pond. Once again, snow removal wastes were pushed into the undisturbed drainages. The operator agreed to have these diversions properly maintained.

*Ken Wyatt*

KEN WYATT  
RECLAMATION OFFICER

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

KW/btb

Statistics:

Vehicle: #EX 68805--398 miles  
Per Diem: 2 persons X \$45.78 = \$91.56  
Grant: I & E



STATE OF UTAH  
NATURAL RESOURCES & ENERGY  
Oil, Gas & Mining

Scott M. Matheson, Governor  
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4241 State Office Building • Salt Lake City, UT 84114 • 801-533-5771

NE1/007/004

February 23, 1982

Mr. Robert Wiley  
Price River Coal Company  
P. O. Box 629  
Helper, Utah 84526

RE: Snow-Waste Removal and  
Disposal Recommendations for  
Utah Coal Operations

Dear Mr. Wiley:

Substantial snowfall accumulations during the past winter months have presented snow removal problems and hindered operational procedures at several coal mines within the State. This problem is predicated due to the lack of available on-site storage space necessary for disposal of the snow and the associated waste materials generated during snow removal operations.

The Division has requested remedial plans to provide adequate disposal and treatment of this excessive snow-waste material and is reviewing each plan on a temporary site-specific emergency basis.

In an effort to preclude or mitigate the possibility of future "emergency" snow removal problems, the Division is seeking the coal operators' assistance and cooperation in evaluating their present snow-waste removal and disposal methods to determine whether each operator's current procedures are adequate to ensure negligible impact to the hydrologic regime within and/or adjacent to the mining operation.

The present extent of the rules and regulations which pertain to the protection of the hydrologic balance do not provide a specific section which directly addresses those problems which occur as a result of excessive snowfall accumulation.

However, there are performance standards which do address this problem in an indirect way; specifically UMC 817.41, .43, .45 and .46.

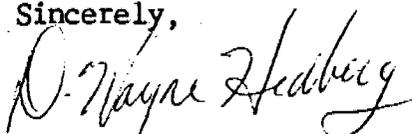
Therefore, until such time as the Office of Surface Mining and/or this Division proposes and adopts new language to address this problem directly, the following preliminary guideline criteria have been developed to help the coal operators minimize and/or control potential adverse environmental impacts which may result from the improper disposal and treatment of snow-waste materials.

1. Sedimentation ponds should not be used as a storage or disposal facility for snow. This practice can cause adverse problems during the spring runoff period, by creating an "iceberg effect" thereby increasing the chances of short-circuiting the pond, and negating sufficient detention time to settle out suspended solids.
2. The use of perennial drainages for storage and/or disposal of snow-waste should be avoided.
3. The use of intermittent and ephemeral drainages will be considered on a site-specific basis, assuming appropriate measures are taken to prevent excessive sedimentation to and of the stream channel.
4. Off-site storage may be permitted at an approved site(s) provided sufficient runoff control is incorporated to adequately treat the resultant effluent.
5. On-site storage (i.e., within the disturbed area, or permit area) is the recommended method for proper control and treatment of the excess snow-waste volumes. The preferred location should ensure that effluent from the eventual melting snowpack will pass through the appropriate runoff and sediment control facilities.
6. Irregardless of the methods selected and utilized to address the removal, storage and disposal of snow-waste at a minesite, the operator is held responsible for meeting the applicable State or Federal effluent standards for the receiving streams.

If an operator recognizes that he does have a snow-waste removal and disposal problem and judges that compliance with these recommended standards is beyond his capability, then the Division should be contacted. The Division will make every effort to work with the operator(s) to establish an acceptable and reasonable permanent solution.

If there are any questions or comments, please contact us.

Sincerely,



D. WAYNE HEDBERG  
RECLAMATION HYDROLOGIST

December 8, 1982

Inspection Memo  
to Coal File

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

Division Inspector David Lof conducted a partial inspection at the above mentioned operation on November 9 and 10, 1982. The purpose of the inspection was to follow up on enforcement action taken during the October complete inspection, specifically NOV 82-4-12-2 and NAOC 82-4-9-3 and other concerns discussed with the operator during that inspection. Mr Lof was accompanied on the inspection by Rob Wiley of Price River Coal Company (PRCC).

### Hardscrabble Canyon

The number three mine in Hardscrabble Canyon is closed down at this time with the exception of maintenance crews. The number four mine is still operating and loading trucks out to Castlegate.

During the October complete inspection NOV N82-4-12-2, 1 of 2, was issued concerning areas in Hardscrabble Canyon. The violation was issued for failure to pass all surface drainage from the disturbed area through a sedimentation pond or another treatment facility before leaving the permit area. Area one of the violation referred to a berm adjacent to the primary undisturbed stream channel just south of the maintenance office trailer. This berm had been repaired, however, the inspector noticed some ponding adjacent to the berm which could lead to a reoccurrence of the problem. The inspector and the operator discussed briefly the use of a swale to convey water away from this small pad area. The operator agreed to have the necessary work completed in 45 days (December 25, 1982). The second portion of the NOV applied to the western half of the pad area associated with the #4 mine. In order to remedy the problem, the operator had reworked the disturbed area runoff diversion, routing most of the water from above the belt crossing down along the road. The water below the belt crossing continues down through the original disturbed area runoff diversion alongside the belt. Some minor work still needs to be done on the diversion by the belt crossing and near the diversion's east end. The operator agreed to have this work completed in 45 days. NOV N82-4-12-2, #1 of 2, was subsequently terminated by the inspector on November 10, 1982. The effective date of the termination was October 14, 1982.

NAOC 82-4-9-3, #2 of 3, which required maintenance of the primary undisturbed stream channel at the south end of the culvert under the road to the #4 mine area had been completed. NAOC 82-4-9-3, #1 of 3, was issued regarding some maintenance needed on the berm west of the warehouse building adjacent to the undisturbed stream channel. The abatement deadline was November 8, 1982. The operator had not yet addressed this area, however, the inspector did not feel that it warranted an NOV at this time and the operator agreed to having the work completed within 45 days.

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The operator had replaced and maintained some of the old straw bales along the perimeter of the Dog Flat storage area. The fifty gallon barrels located along the road to Dog Flat had not yet been removed and placed in an appropriate storage location. Mr. Wiley agreed to have the barrels taken care of within a week.

The small stilling basins which were installed by the operator to treat runoff from the spring snow melt at the extreme southern end of the permit area had not yet been maintained. The operator agreed to have these basins cleaned out within 45 days.

#### Sowbelly Canyon

The berm separating the undisturbed drainage from the disturbed area on the west side of warehouse #5 had not been addressed. The berm required a small amount of maintenance work which Mr. Wiley agreed to have completed within 45 days. Some snow removal operations have taken place. Mr. Wiley was reminded to inform the snow removal equipment operators to be careful not to place snow from a disturbed area in undisturbed channels, and to try and keep snow from constricting disturbed area runoff diversions.

#### Utah Fuel #1

On October 7, 1982, PRCC received an approval to install a temporary diversion ditch above the Utah Fuel #1 disturbed area in order to bypass undisturbed drainage from the water shed above. At the time of the inspection, Mr. Wiley informed me that PRCC had received approval from its parent company AEP, on a contract for the construction of the above mentioned diversion and that the work would probably be completed prior to the next inspection.

#### Gravel Canyon

At the time of the inspection, the eastern slope of the subsoil stockpile was being regraded to a 3 to 1 slope by a large bulldozer.

#### Crandall Canyon

At the time of the inspection, approximately six to eight inches of snow were on the ground at the shaft site. Cementation is currently in the process of dismantling the #1 Shaft and should be completed with the development of the #2 Shaft by January 1983.

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During the October complete inspection the operator was issued NOV 82-4-12-2, #2 of 2, for failure to maintain diversion. Portion one of the violation was in reference to the diversion ditch north of the #1 shaft which conveys muck water from the #1 shaft to the lower sediment pond. The #1 shaft has been completed, therefore no more water is being mucked from shaft thereby partially eliminating the problem. A problem still exists in that some disturbed area runoff from the rest of the shaft area also contributes to this diversion therefore the diversion still needs to be maintained. This work should be completed by no later than 8:00 a.m., November 15, 1982, in accordance with the time for abatement of the violation. The second portion of the violation applied to the undisturbed diversion ditch southeast of the hoist house from the #1 shaft. The berm had not been repaired yet and again the operator was reminded of the November 15, 1982 abatement deadline.

The operator informed the inspector that the leach field was not going to be constructed this season due to the winter weather conditions. However, he said that another culvert had been installed along the access road to the leach field and that the other drainage controls had been implemented along the road.

Much of the hilfiker wall associated with the development of the upper area for the shop/warehouse facilities has been completed. The 48 inch cross culvert has been installed; it still needs a headwall. The uppermost multi-plate stream crossing has been completely installed including headwalls. Also, the upper and lower most portions of the stream channel diversion in this area have been rip-rapped.

The operator's contractor for the hoist house has excavated the foundations for the fan and hoist house frames near the #1 shaft site. The excavated materials have been temporarily stockpiled on the access road below the shaft site. A berm had been placed along one side of the stockpiles as a temporary sediment control measure. The inspector suggested that some straw bales be placed along the downhill side of the stockpiles to better establish temporary sediment control. The operator was asked to have this implemented by November 15, 1982. The inspector also noted during the inspection that some materials had been placed in the undisturbed drainage diversion which had been the subject of NOV 82-4-9-1. Due to the nature of the materials, the operator was given a verbal warning and was asked to have the materials out of the diversion no later than November 15, 1982.

The operator has revegetated a large percentage of the flat areas along the access road to Crandall Canyon. Approximately four acres have been reseeded and straw crimped into the soil. The inspector discussed with the operator the possibility of flagging off or marking the areas in some manner so as to try to minimize the amount of disturbance to these areas.

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### Castlegate Preparation Plant

During the October complete inspection, several areas of concern were discussed with the operator having to do with sediment control and sediment control structures. One of the areas discussed was where the road to the new stacking tube passes over the Barn Canyon undisturbed drainage. At the time of the October inspection the berm on the east side of the road, which is supposed to protect the Barn Canyon undisturbed drainage from disturbed area runoff, had apparently sustained some damage from recent heavy rainstorms. A significant amount of ponding had occurred at this apparent low point which more than likely led to the damage to the berm. Because of this, inspectors issued NAOC 82-4-9-3, #3 of 3. The nature of the concern was the design, construction and maintenance of sediment control structures to ensure that structures are adequate to prevent additional contributions of suspended sediments to runoff outside the permit area. The area to which the notice applied was the area west of the water treatment plant, and north of the clean coal stockpile and sediment pond 011. The NAOC required that plans be submitted addressing these areas, which may be inadequately designed and constructed, to ensure proper conveyance and treatment of disturbed area runoff. These plans were to be implemented immediately upon Division approval and the time for abatement was no later than October 27, 1982. At the time of this inspection, plans had not been received by the Division concerning this NAOC. And, the inspector noted that a significant amount of ponding was once again occurring in the exact same location. The runoff causing the ponding was not the result of a large precipitation event.

The second area of concern discussed with the operator during the October complete inspection was an access road leaving the disturbed area and entering the railroad right-of-way just north of the railroad loadout. At the time of the October inspection, inspectors felt that this area posed a potential situation where disturbed area runoff could leave the site untreated. The operator was asked to have this area addressed. On November 9, 1982, disturbed area runoff was in fact leaving the permit via this access road to the railroad. In fact, it appeared that since the October inspection, that someone had used a shovel to provide the runoff a small diversion under the railroad tracks. The operator was asked to have this area fixed immediately. The operator had placed a berm across the access to the railroad by the morning of November 10, 1982.

A third area previously discussed with the operator was sediment pond 012. This pond was designed and constructed to handle disturbed area runoff from approximately 19 acres. In order to contain the runoff from a 10 year, 24 hour event a capacity of approximately 46,000 cubic feet is needed. Inspectors found that due to improper placement of the pond, an additional 101 acres of undisturbed area is contributing to the pond. Because of this,

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if the operator was to receive a 10 year, 24 hour event, the pond would be deficient approximately 51,000 cubic feet of capacity. In addition to this problem, the operator has just recently started to pump mine water from the #3 mine into the pond in order to keep the mine from flooding. In doing this, an additional strain was placed on the pond. Because of the three areas mentioned above, NOV N82-4-14-1 was issued as follows:

Nature of the Violation

Failure to design, construct, and maintain sediment control structures to ensure that structures are adequate to prevent additional contributions of suspended solids to runoff outside the permit area.

Provision of the Regulations or Act Violated

UCA 40-10-18(2)(i)(ii)  
UMC 817.41 (a)(d)  
UMC 817.42 (a)(1)  
UMC 817.43 (c)  
UMC 817.45

Portion of the Operation to Which Notice Applies

- A. Sedimentation pond located across from the guard shack (sediment pond 011)
- (B) Area to the west and north of the clean coal stockpile.

Remedial Action Required

Submit plans which adequately address the design, construction and maintenance of the sediment control structures and ensure proper conveyance and treatment of all disturbed area runoff. Plans shall be implemented immediately upon Division approval.

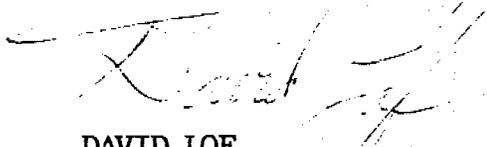
Time for Abatement

Plans due no later than December 15, 1982. Implementation shall be completed no later than April 30, 1983.

The berm which was to be constructed, separating the disturbed area from the railroad tracks, north of the railroad loadout and adjacent to the new conveyer belt which is being constructed from the new clean coal stockpile to the railroad loadout, had not been completed.

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The berm northeast of the truck loadout which is suppose to separate the disturbed area from the undisturbed drainage below the coal refuse sediment pond, was being maintained at the time of the inspection.



DAVID LOF  
RECLAMATION OFFICER

DL/tck

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

Statistics:

See Deer Creek Mine memo dated, December 5, 1982