

Document Information Form

Mine Number: C/007/004

File Name: Internal

To: DOGM

From:

Person N/A

Company N/A.

Date Sent: December 2, 1983

Explanation:

INSPECTION MEMO TO COAL FILE.

cc:

File in:
C/ 007, 004, Internal

Refer to:

- Confidential
- Shelf
- Expandable

Date _____ For additional information

December 2, 1983

Inspection Memo
to Coal File:

RE: Price River Coal Complex
Price River Coal Company
ACT/007/004, Folder # 7
Carbon County, Utah

DATE: August 30, 1983

TIME 8am - 4pm

WEATHER Fair

COMPANY OFFICIAL: Rob Wiley

STATE OFFICIAL: Sandy Pruitt

ENFORCEMENT ACTION: None

COMPLIANCE WITH PERMANENT PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

UMC 771 al Permits

The April 27, 1977 letters from the USGS and from DOGM approve the 211 plan for mining operations in Sowbelly Canyon, Hardscrabble Canyon, Willow Creek, Trash Canyon, the Utah Fuel # 1 portal and Castlegate Preparation Plant. A May 18, 1982 final approval letter from DOGM permitted the Crandall Canyon Mine revision.

An April 21, 1983 request for a temporary variance from diversion of overland flow during construction at Crandall Canyon until final site grading is complete (fall 1983) was granted in a letter dated June 23, 1983. Plans for reinstallation of the Willow Creek stream crossing dated June 12, 1983 were approved August 8, 1983. Installation of the 10 foot diameter pipe was near completion at the time of this inspection.

UMC 817.11 Signs and Markers

All of the mine identification signs and perimeter markers inspected were adequate. The Price River and Willow Creek buffer zones are adequately posted.

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UMC 817.23-.25 Topsoil

Topsoil protection at the Gravel canyon stockpile appears sufficient for now. Revegetation success is poor and supplemental seeding this fall is recommended. PRCC has not installed a fence around this topsoil stockpile yet as committed to in the approved plan dated May 17, 1982. Rob Wiley maintained that the fence will not be installed until public access to the stockpile presents an actual threat of disturbance or results in loss of topsoil. The May 18 plans did not allow for conditional installation of the fence. If the fence is not to be promptly installed, a revision to these plans should be requested.

Erosion protection on the Crandall Canyon topsoil stockpiles is much better with good, diverse revegetation success. But cattle have grazed at the stockpile affecting the viability of the stand. PRCC will try to restrict grazing in Crandall Canyon until all revegetation projects are well established.

Once the contractor examined the proposed leach field site it was determined that, due to all the boulders, it would be more feasible to strip topsoil over the entire field rather than in strips over the trenches. No work has been started yet.

UMC 817.41-.57 Hydrologic Balance

Castlegate Preparation Plant

All drainage control measures appeared adequate. The thickner overflow pond was being cleaned out as it was about full of sediment after the thickner was dumped two times for repairs. The sediment was spread out on the auxiliary silo pad for drying and will be permanently disposed in Schoolhouse Canyon.

Utah Fuel No. 1 Portal

The new undisturbed area diversion channel is completed and was well riprapped at the discharge point onto the road. Water ponding at the base of the hopper transfer station is now minimal due to the diversion and since the # 3 mine is shut down. Strawbales provide adequate protection.

Willow Creek Storage Area

Access across Willow Creek is being reestablished with the installation of a 10 foot diameter metal pipe with a rock headwall. The steep access roads established on the stream bank should be reclaimed this fall. It was requested that a berm be installed across the top of the roads to minimize erosion on the steep slopes. A water bar halfway down the road may be necessary if significant erosion is evident in the future.

Sowbelly Canyon - Mine No. 5

Drainage control measures in Sowbelly Canyon appeared adequate. But the lowest swale across the road needed to be reestablished to increase the runoff capacity. Additional erosion of the gully, located on the east side of the road just past the strawbale series below the mine, should be minimized to the extent possible using riprap or some other channel lining.

Hardscrabble Canyon - Mines No. 3 & No.4

Maintenance of all the runoff control ditches is necessary before winter. The inlet of the undisturbed drainage culvert crossing the slide area above the mine #4 loadout should be maintained clear of all slide material and other obstructions. Strawbales staked along the base of the shed above the undisturbed drainage diversion by the Carbon Fuel fan appeared inadequate for sediment control as they are not well secured on a steep slope and have not trapped much sediment. This drainage area is small (mostly covered by the shed and foundation) but silt fence may be more appropriate here due to the steep slope. PRCC plans to clean out the sediment ponds in Hardscrabble Canyon this fall. The sediment will be disposed of at Goose Island for future use as refuse cover material. It is recommended that a calibrated stake be installed in the pond to indicate sediment volume.

Crandall Canyon Development

Installation of the section of Hilfaker wall along the stream diversion between the road crossings was near completion. Surface grading is now necessary to divert all runoff toward the sediment pond by Shaft # 2. PRCC intends to relocate the 24 inch diameter undisturbed drainage pipe next to the Shaft # 1 fan housing to shorten the length of the pipe by tying in perpendicular to the 90 inch diameter bypass culvert. As the headwall design of the 24 inch culvert will change and as the 90 inch bypass culvert was not designed to handle drainage of the area west of Shaft #1, plans for this minor modification should be submitted for DOGM approval prior to implementation.

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The NPDES reports to June 1983 were examined in the mine office. No discharge was reported for all NPDES points except O20(the mine #3 discharge). Water monitoring results examined up to August 16, 1983 did not indicate any serious problems.

UMC 817.89 Disposal of Non-Coal Wastes

Unusable equipment scattered throughout the mine area such as old longwall equipment stored below the Sowbelly Mine yard and old pipes scattered over the area above the Hardscrabble mine yard should be consolidated in the designated material storage area or permanently disposed of. The scattered areas should be contemporaneously reclaimed (possibly used as test plots for disturbed area revegetation).

UMC 817.100 Contemporaneous Reclamation

Reclamation of Goose Island and Magazine Canyon will be a catch as catch can project. PRCC has good intentions but limited funding and crew for now. The old access road to Crandall Canyon and the borrow area used for the Willow Creek Crossing should be reclaimed this fall.

UMC 817.111-.117 Revegetation

Areas scheduled for seeding this fall include the out slopes and adjacent area of the new sediment pond at Castlegate, the new undisturbed drainage ditch on the south side of Barn Canyon, the topsoil stockpile in Gravel Canyon, the borrow area used for the Willow Creek access, the temporary access roads for installation of the Willow Creek crossing, Crandall Canyon road cuts, the banks south of Shaft #2, the old Crandall Canyon access road, the Crandall Canyon leach field (if finished) and maybe Goose Island and Magazine Canyon.

UMC 817.150 -.176 Roads

The road turnoff to Castlegate Preparation Plant, the turnoff to Sowbelly and the road up Crandall Canyon are all private roads. The Hardscrabble Canyon access is a county road. This county road is the greatest compliance problem as most drainage cross culverts are shortcircuited resulting in heavy erosion and deep gullies (2 feet deep or greater) along the road bank above the ephemeral stream channel.

SANDY PRUITT 
FIELD SPECIALIST

SP:re

cc: Tom Ehmett, OSM
Joe Helfrich, DOGM
Rob Wiley, PRCC

Statistics: See Wellington Plant memo dated September 23, 1983