

### Document Information Form

Mine Number: C/007/004

File Name: Internal

To: DOGM

From:

Person N/A

Company N/A.

Date Sent: FEBRUARY 21, 1984

Explanation:

INSPECTION MEMO TO COAL FILE.

cc:

File in:  
C/ 007, 004. Internal

Refer to:

- Confidential
- Shelf
- Expandable

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

February 21, 1984

Inspection Memo  
to Coal File:

RE: Price River Coal Company  
Price River Complex  
ACT/007/004, Folder No. 7  
Carbon County, Utah

DATE: November 3, 1983  
TIME: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
WEATHER: Fair  
COMPANY OFFICIAL: Rob Wiley  
STATE OFFICIAL: Sandy Pruitt  
ENFORCEMENT ACTION: N83-2-15-1

Compliance With Permanent Performance Standards

UMC 717.11 et al. Permits

All mining permits were available for inspection as required. Price River Coal Company (PRCC) had not obtained any new permits during the last quarter.

UMC 817.11 Signs and Markers

Mine identification signs were posted at the access points to Crandall Canyon, Hardscrabble Canyon, Sowbelly Canyon, Utah Fuel #1 Facility, Castlegate Preparation Plant, Willow Creek Yard and at the old Castlegate Mine Fan (which is still active). There are no visible signs at the access point to the Gravel Canyon topsoil storage area or at Trash Canyon. PRCC should address these deficiencies in accordance with UMC 817.11(c)(1).

UMC 817.21-.23 Topsoil

PRCC intends to use topsoil stored at Gravel Canyon in reclamation of Goose Island this summer. PRCC is fully responsible for topsoil protection in accordance with commitments made for approval of the Gravel Canyon Storage permit revision (for example, installation of a chain link fence to limit public access to the storage site).

Contrary to allegations made by Rob Wiley that a violation issued by Gary Fritz (on September 21, 1979) for PRCC's failure to remove topsoil from Schoolhouse Canyon prior to refuse disposal was vacated, legal docket #DV 0-9-P (dated June 3, 1981) recording the decision of the civil penalty proceedings for NOV N79-5-5-33 (among others) indicates that this NOV was in fact upheld. PRCC did not remove topsoil when they established the refuse

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Refer to Record No. 0018 Date 2-21-84  
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disposal site in Schoolhouse Canyon in 1979 contending that the soil was too contaminated with coal and they intended to purchase substitute material. The Administrative Law Judge Mesch determined that PRCC should have sought approval from OSM for a variance from the topsoil removal requirements, before covering it with refuse. PRCC has only recently requested a variance from removal of topsoil from the steep slopes of Schoolhouse Canyon and committed to providing substitute topsoil material in the permanent program mining and reclamation plan.

UMC 817.41-.57 Hydrologic Balance

Castlegate

Several problems observed at the Castlegate Preparation Plant yard warranted enforcement action. NOV N83-2-15-1 was issued for the failure to maintain appropriate sediment control measures to prevent, to the extent possible, additional contributions of sediment to streamflow or to runoff outside the permit area (UMC 817.45, UCA 40-10-18[2][i][ii]). This violation was noted at the area where coal is stored for employee use (between the diesel tank and the coal tactifier next to the railroad tracks). The deadline for the repair and maintenance of all sediment control structures cited was November 11, 1983. Due to inadequate maintenance of surface grades and runoff control ditches, there is a great potential for runoff from the coal storage area and spillage from the diesel tank to drain along the railroad and bypass the sediment pond. No runoff was observed at the time of this inspection, but it had rained heavily before and there were small rills eroded in the surface indicating the off-site drainage pattern. Some time ago, straw bales were staked down above the Price River across the railroad tracks from the tactifier tank. These bales were poorly maintained and had been short-circuited so that they did not provide adequate backup.

This same potential for off-site drainage was observed north of the railroad loading station where a drainage control berm along the disturbed area perimeter had been driven over several times so that runoff from the clean coal stockpile area could flow off-site and along the railroad tracks. A large gully on the outslope of the coal storage pad drained through the break in the berm indicating that a large volume of runoff may have passed off-site. It could not be determined how long this condition had been present.

Another maintenance problem noted during this inspection did not warrant a violation if promptly attended to. The drainage diversion ditch to sediment pond 012B is too shallow along the older section, which is south of the belt transfer, and is obstructed at a point just below the transfer station. It appeared that runoff would drain around the obstruction and back into the ditch inlet to the sediment pond, but overflow from the older, shallow section of the ditch could potentially bypass the pond. It was requested that this ditch line be reestablished to design in accordance with UMC 817.43(a) by the next inspection.

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A leak in a water line alleged to service the town of Helper, is discharging into the old sediment pond, 012. The water level in this pond had not approached the pond's maximum volume capacity, but the extra water would effect the capacity for storm runoff. As this pond receives runoff only from the guard shack and scales and is, therefore, oversized, this concern is not a pressing matter.

#### Utah Fuel #1

This facility was inspected. No compliance problems were observed.

#### Willow Creek Support Facility

Berms should be constructed across the access roads constructed for installation of the bridge across Willow Creek to divert runoff away from the roads and minimize erosion. PRCC's scheduled to seed and apply tackifier to these road this fall. The borrow area established for the bridge construction will be recontoured and seeded this fall. No sediment control was required here, but erosion control diversions may be necessary. This will be determined next spring.

#### Crandall Canyon Mine

PRCC was in the process of grading the leachfield access road cuts to the appropriate, stable slopes. Stabilization of the cut slopes on either side of the substation needs to be done also.

Development of the water tank pad (at an old drill site above the mine yard) was underway at this time. Riprap was well placed in the stream diversion between the water tank and the warehouse pad.

All runoff control measures inspected in Crandall Canyon appeared functional.

#### Sowbelly Canyon Mine - Mine #5

Most runoff control measures inspected in Sowbelly Canyon appeared functional with the exception of the berm along the road past the upper substation which had breached. A wet area in the road at the base of the berm, plus a small gully in the berm outslope, were evidence that disturbed area runoff flowed through the breach in the berm and into the undisturbed drainage diversion untreated. Rob Wiley temporarily repaired the berm breach immediately by shoveling dirt into the breach. This violation was cited in NOV N83-2-15-1 as Area 3. Remedial action required permanent repair of the berm by November 11, 1983.

### Hardscrabble Canyon

Runoff control measures were in a state of bad repair at the #3 Mine. Straw bales that treat runoff from the small area where spools are stored up canyon from the carbon fuel fan, had been eaten by cattle and needed to be replaced. There was no evidence of disturbed area runoff into the undisturbed drainage ditch. This violation was cited as Area 2 and NOV N83-2-15-1. The straw bales should be replaced by November 11, 1983.

The straw bales in the road drainage ditch below the #3 Mine parking lot had all been short-circuited or were buried with sediment and not functional. These bales are the only runoff control measures provided for the #3 Mine yard and parking lot (about eight acres). The violation was cited as Area 1 on NOV N83-2-15-1. These straw bales should be replaced by November 11, 1983 and maintained to prevent short-circuiting and adequately treat all runoff from the #3 Mine yard. The problems and maintenance of these bales stem from the large volume of runoff to be treated in addition to the high velocity of the runoff after it has passed over the parking lot pavement. A stockpile of the old straw bales and sediment removed in maintenance is located directly above the bales in the road ditch which is an obvious source of much of the sediment which is trapped by burying the straw bales. Sediment is also carried off the material insulating the bathhouse water tank. These contributing sources should be managed to minimize sedimentation of the bales. For example, additional straw bales could be staked around the water tank and the stockpile of sediment should be relocated to a point above a sediment pond (this is good material for use in reclaiming Goose Island).

### UMC 817.100 Contemporaneous Reclamation

Areas scheduled for reclamation this fall are the old yarding area at the Crandall Canyon egress and the borrow area for the Willow Creek stream crossing.

### UMC 817.111-.117 Revegetation

The roads down to Willow Creek which were used for installation of the Willow Creek stream crossing will be seeded this fall as will the outslopes of sediment pond 012B at Castlegate, the Crandall Canyon access road cuts and the Gravel Canyon topsoil stockpile.

### UMC 817.121-.126 Subsidence Control

Subsidence of one foot (at Station C29) and two feet (at Station 4G) over the #3 Mine (Sub 3 Seam) by Bear Canyon was noted in the subsidence monitoring report dated September 15, 1983. Rob Wiley attributed this to subsidence in the old Royal Mine (D Seam), but the Sub 3 Seam was also mined out below Station 4G as of 1979 and near Station C29 in 1981. There were no obvious surface cracks reported due to the rocky terrain in the area, it is reported to be only a surface depression. 1983 subsidence monitoring data have not been submitted to DOGM yet.

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UMC 817.150-.176 Roads

The leachfield access road cuts were being graded to the required 1:1 slope. The inside road ditch should be cleared and reestablished upon completion.

Sandy Pruitt   
Field Specialist

SP/btb

cc: Tom Emmett, OSM  
Rob Wiley, PRCC  
J. Helfrich, DOGM

Statistics:

See SUFCO memo dated December 21, 1983.

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