

October 10, 1985

TO: Coal File, Inspection and Enforcement Folder
FROM: Tom Wright, Mining Field Specialist *TW*
RE: Price River Coal Company, Price River Complex, ACT/007/004,
Folder #7, Carbon County, Utah

On September 26, 1985, I conducted a complete inspection of the Price River Complex. Ken Hutchinson of Price River accompanied me on the inspection. Mr. Hutchinson indicated that Price River was very upset over the site tour on August 16, 1985, and the enforcement action issued as a result of this visit. The memo written as a result of the tour incorrectly listed the visit as an inspection instead of a site tour. In spite of this incorrect language, the violations issued are still valid.

Sowbelly Canyon

Drainage controls for the site appeared functional but worn in some locations. No evidence of disturbed runoff bypassing sediment controls from recent rainfall was noted. No runoff was occurring on the site during this inspection.

All sediment ponds for the area contained water during this inspection. No evidence of discharge was noted from these structures. Embankments appeared stable with no signs of failure or leaks.

The access road for the site was maintained adequately with no signs of erosion from the surface or slopes. No evidence of runoff bypassing cross drains for the structure was noted.

Hardscrabble Canyon

The Goose Island reclamation area appeared stable with no major evidence of slumpage or erosion. Some minor cutting on the northern side of the restored channel which cuts across the reclamation on an east-west orientation was noted. This cutting is not significant, although improvement in riprap on the channel should be done to prevent erosion from worsening.

No runoff was noted passing through the restored drainages during this inspection. It appears that the main channel is stable with no slumpage or failure.

Vegetation on the area appears to have developed adequately for the first year. The annual nurse crop planted has died off, and it appears that some perennials are established. Density of cover

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varied depending on slope and orientation. Cover appeared thicker in the more protected areas. The trees planted this spring appeared to be surviving adequately at this time. Die-off appeared to be minimal even among pines. Further examination should be done next spring to determine if quantity of vegetation is adequate.

An electric fence had been installed around the area to prevent access by cattle. According to a workman on the area, cattle had broken through the fence the previous night, and the structure was being repaired.

Several structures at the mouth of the canyon for the Goose Island area have been removed. This included a fan and housing unit for portals on the east side of the canyon. No other reclamation had been done by this inspection.

The belt line for the #4 mine was still removed during this inspection. Grading to improve the slope for the structure had recently been done. The berm south of the belt line which protected undisturbed runoff had been improved by this inspection, with the height of the structure increased in several sections.

No evidence of contaminated runoff bypassing controls was noted during this inspection. It appeared that no discharge from sediment ponds had occurred recently.

Reconstruction of sediment pond #9 was completed by this inspection. However, Division technical staff has required that several stipulations regarding compaction and stability be met. No water was standing in either cell of the structure, but it appears that runoff has entered both.

The undisturbed diversion adjacent to the structure has been restored. However, additional riprap should be placed to prevent erosion of pond outslopes.

Crandall Canyon

Construction of additional sediment controls for the leach field has almost been completed. Installation of additional silt fence and minor earthwork is all that remains to be done. These controls were installed as a temporary measure until construction of the leach field is completed.

Both sediment ponds contained runoff during this inspection. It appeared from silt marks on embankments of the upper structure that the discharge point was almost reached. No additional work on the lower pad appears to have been done since the last inspection.

Castlegate Preparation Plant

Topsoil spread on the face of the refuse pile at Schoolhouse Canyon had been recently hydroseeded and mulched. According to Mr. Hutchinson, this work had been done by Mel Coonrod, a contractor. A slight seep was noted in the refuse pile face. This was located on the left side of the face, just below the top of the hydroseeded area and adjacent to the access road. Flow from this was minor with no cutting or erosion resulting. All flow from the area would be contained by the sediment pond for the refuse pile.

All sediment ponds for the Castlegate area contained runoff during this inspection. No evidence of recent discharge from the sediment ponds was noted, and all structures appeared stable.

It appeared that sediment controls for the area functioned properly, and no disturbed runoff left the site.

Material cleaned from the plant slurry pond remained stockpiled adjacent to the structure. This material should be taken to a proper refuse area for disposal.

Willow Creek

This area appeared stable with no signs of contamination leaving the disturbed area. The access road for the site is very rough in nature, but erosion from it does not appear to be a problem.

Utah Fuel #3

This area appeared stable with no significant erosion or slumpage. A slight volume of water was contained in the sediment pond.

dd

cc: Ken Hutchinson
Donna Griffin
Joe Helfrich
Ken May
Sue Linner

Statistics: See Beaver Creek Coal, Gordon Creek #3 and #6 mines memo dated October 1, 1985.

0342Q-28-30