

0010

June 20, 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

DATE: June 5, 6, 1985
TIME: 10:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. respectively
WEATHER: Sunny, warm
COMPANY OFFICIALS: Ken Hutchinson
STATE OFFICIALS: Tom Wright
ENFORCEMENT ACTION: None

Compliance With Permanent Performance Standards

UMC 771 et al Permits

The following permits and information was reviewed at the operators office:

Permit approval from the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM) in a letter dated December 24, 1984. This permit is for a 5 year period.

Sediment pond inspection reports with the most recent entries dated May 15, 1985. These last inspections were done by Mel Coonrod, a contractor for Price River Coal.

Certifications of the sediment pond on the design maps, stamped by Ken Hutchinson.

A letter to the DOGM dated February 21, 1985 informing the Division of suspension of coal production due to market conditions. According to the letter Price River Coal has no intent to seal any portals or commence final reclamation of any facilities other than those specified in the MRP.

UMC 817.11 Signs and Markers

Mine identification signs and perimeter markers were in place on all permit areas. Topsoil markers were in place on all permanent stockpiles, I advised the operator that if a modification is made to leave topsoil at the Crandall Canyon leech field stored until reconstruction of the leech field posting of the stockpile would be required.

Topsoil

Designated topsoil storage areas appeared to be adequately protected with berms and vegetation. No evidence of material loss or contamination was noted on any.

Price River Coal is considering modification of topsoil handling in Crandall Canyon at the leech field area because of improper construction of the drain field. This would involve stockpiling of the topsoil adjacent to the area instead of spreading over the drainfield until reconstruction of the drain field was completed.

I advised Mr. Hutchinson that additional improvements to the berms of the storage area would be needed and seeding to protect the material if this is done.

UMC 817.41-.52 Hydrologic Balance

Sediment ponds for the facilities were dry or contained very little water during this inspection with the exception of the upper pond at Crandall Canyon facility. No evidence was noted of any recent inflow to any of the structures or discharge from outlets.

Reconstruction of the sediment pond for the Crandall Canyon facility has been completed. Bentonite has been applied to seal the bottom, and inside slopes of the structure. The principle and emergency spillways have also been installed.

Additional construction of drainage controls has been done at Crandall Canyon. This included installation of riprap on the undisturbed bypass from the fan house down canyon in the direction of the sediment pond.

Two headwalls for bypass culverts were also being constructed down canyon from the fan house. These 2 culverts divert drainage from undisturbed slopes under the pad into the stream channels.

The berm to prevent disturbed runoff from leaving the pad at the first access point from the main road at the Crandall Canyon site is not well developed and should be improved. No signs of runoff leaving the pad in the past was noted so no enforcement was warranted. However, if improvement in the drainage controls are made a potential breach could occur in the future.

Improvements have been made by the operator at Hardscrabble Canyon on the berm to protect the undisturbed bypass from the #4 portal area to the main canyon drainage below. In two locations the operator has increased the sizing of the berm however, the undisturbed drainage is rough in nature.

At present the beltline structure that was located parallel to the berm has been removed from the area. According to Mr. Hutchinson reconstruction of this structure will be done shortly and as part of the work additional improvements to the undisturbed bypass will be made.

Drop drain inlets to route disturbed runoff off the roads in Hardscrabble and Sowbelly canyons appeared to be clear and functional. No signs of any bypass by contaminated flow was noted.

UMC 817.52 Surface and Groundwater Monitoring

Price River Coal's NPDES permit was issued on December 6, 1982 and will expire on June 30, 1987. This permit authorized discharge to Price River Spring Canyon and Willow Creek within approved limits.

Water sampling reports dated March 30, 1985 were available for examination at the operations office. In this report no discharge was noted from any of the mine sediment ponds.

Price River Coal requested changes in their NPDES permit in a letter date December 12, 1984. Requested changes included deletion of Sediment Ponds 006,013,016 and 015 as changes in mine plans eliminated the need for these structures.

UMC 817.81 -.93 Coal Processing Waste

As Price River Coal is not actively processing coal at present no waste from the cleaning plant is resulting. Material being cleaned from the plantwater pond will be placed in the refuse area. At present some material removed from the pond is stored adjacent to the pond. According to Mr. Hutchinson the material will be moved to the refuse area when dry enough to handle and additional cleaning of the pond will be done.

Slopes of the refuse area appear stable with no signs of erosion or failure. Price River intends to reclaim the lower slope of the area during this summer and fall.

UMC 817.111-.117 Revegetation

Revegetation has continued to develop on the Goose island reclamation area. Annual grasses planted as a nurse crop appear to be developing rapidly, especially along the lower slopes next to the day stream channel. Planting of trees and shrubs has been completed on the area and the survival rate is good so far.

UMC 817.131 Cessation of Operations

Price River Coal still remains inactive with the exception of site maintenance and construction of the Crandall Canyon facilities.

Page 4

ACT/007/004

June 20, 1985

UMC 817.150 - .176 Roads

Mine access and support roads appear to be adequately maintained however, the access road to the Goose Island area needs blading.

Ditches and culverts for roads appeared maintained and functional.

re

cc: Donna Griffin, OSM
Ken Hutchinson, PRCC
Joe Helfrich, DOGM
Sue Linner, DOGM

Statistics: See Tower memo dated June 17, 1985

0244Q-25-28