

0014

File

May 6, 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

A partial inspection of the Price River Coal Complex was conducted on April 24, 1985. Rob Wiley of Price River Coal was contacted and accompanied me on the inspection. The weather was warm and clear.

Active production of coal by Price River has not occurred for several months. Activity at this time consists of maintenance of existing surface and underground works, construction of Crandall Canyon facilities and reclamation in the Goose Island area.

Hardscrabble Canyon

Final grade on the Goose Island refuse pile, application of topsoil and seeding was done by the operator last fall. As of this inspection all snowcover on the area has melted and the surface was dry. Recontour of the area to match existing terrain was well done with no evidence of significant erosion on the slopes or in the reconstructed drainages. Vegetation is beginning to sprout on the reclamation area, however it is too early to judge the success of the planting. Further inspection of the planting will be needed later in the growing season to evaluate establishment on the area. Stakes have been posted over the area delineating spots for planting of trees and shrubs. Riprap in the intermittent stream channels appeared to be working effectively as no evidence of silting was noted.

Additional reclamation has been done at the mouth of the canyon which accesses the Goose Island area from the #3 mine. The fan and housing located in the area had been disconnected and placed on the #3 mine yard. Also scrap and other debris from the area had been moved. According to Mr. Wiley all structures from this area will be removed and the area reclaimed to the canyon mouth leaving only the access road for the canyon in place.

Sediment structures for the #3 mine appeared clear and functional. No flow was noted entering any pond and no evidence of recent discharge was noted. Sediment Pond #7 has been cleaned by the operator since the last inspection. The inlet to the pond was maintained and the discharge structure was clear.

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CrandallCanyon

Construction to complete the Crandall Canyon facilities was ongoing during this inspection. A bulldozer was spreading base material to establish the grade for facilities just below the fan and shaft area. Additional work is scheduled to be done in the near future including final completion of all permanent berms, diversions and sediment pond modifications. According to Mr. Wiley this will be accomplished this summer.

Both sediment ponds for the site were containing runoff from the area, however, no discharge was occurring. No evidence of erosion or any leaks in the ponds was noted. Completion of the lower pond emergency spillway modifications is scheduled for this spring.

Berms for the protection of the temporary topsoil stockpile at the upper end of site are becoming worn and in need of maintenance. No breaches have occurred at this time but improvement of the berms must be done.

According to Mr. Wiley, the contractor constructing the leech field on which the topsoil was to be stored improperly installed drain pipes. As a result installation had been stopped until another contractor could be hired to reconstruct the leech field properly. Because of this the topsoil cannot be placed for final storage until the leech field is corrected and completed.

I informed Mr. Wiley that if reconstruction could not be accomplished this summer a temporary cover of grasses which comply with those approved of in the mine plan for use on topsoil storage must be established to protect the topsoil until placement on the leech field.

Castlegate Preparation Plant

Cleaning of the plant overflow processing pond and the northern sediment pond at the Castlegate loadout area had been done since the last inspection. Material removed from these ponds was stored in the refuse dump for the facilities.

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A slight leak was surfacing on the road to the Castlegate facilities just above the guard shack for the area. Water from this leak was moving off the road slope and off the area. According to Mr. Wiley several water lines not owned by PRCC run under this road at this point and one of them is leaking. At this time flow is not causing any significant harm and as ownership of this line is undetermined no enforcement action is warranted at this time. However, this leak should be repaired before any damage can occur and enforcement action will be required.

re

cc: Ken Hutchinson
Donna Griffin
Joe Helfrich
Sue Linner

Statistics: See C. V. Spur memo dated April 30, 1985
0244Q-1-2