

0021

File

January 7, 1985

TO: Coal File, Inspection and Enforcement

FROM: Sandy Pruitt, Mining Field Specialist *SP*

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

DATE: September 27, 1984

TIME: 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

WEATHER: Coal and fair

COMPANY OFFICIALS: Rob Wiley

STATE OFFICIALS: Sandy Pruitt

ENFORCEMENT ACTION: None

Compliance With Permanent Performance Standards

UMC 771 et al Permits

Price River Coal Company (PRCC) received approval from the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOG M) to realign the 24 inch culvert diversion to tie into the 90 inch bypass culvert under the ventilation building on August 7, 1984.

Sediment Pond 014, designed to replace the existing sediment ponds for the operational phase of the mine site and paved surfaces, was approved on August 30, 1984 by DOGM and on September 6, 1984 by the State Department of Health (DOH). The September 6, 1984 letter for DOH also approves the plans for Sediment Pond #9. Sediment Pond #9 was approved by OSM on July 11, 1984.

OSM reviewed and approved plans for the emergency spillways required for sediment ponds 005, 007 and 008. A letter dated July 13, 1984 grants approval for the spillway designs in Sediment Ponds 007 and 008. The spillway designs for Sediment Ponds 005 were later approved on August 13, 1984.

Deficiencies in the Goose Island reclamation plans were listed with partial approval in a letter from DOGM dated August 31, 1984. Final approval of the April 24, 1984 reclamation plans and the addendums in response to deficiencies dated August 24, 1984 and September 5, 1984 was granted on September 12, 1984. PRCC started moving equipment on site for the Goose Island reclamation project on September 3, 1984.

UMC 817.11 Signs and Markers

All mine identification signs, perimeter markers, buffer zone and topsoil markers, are posted where required.

UMC 817.21-.25 Topsoil

The topsoil stockpiles at Gravel Canyon and in Crandall Canyon remain stable. The topsoil stockpile at the Crandall Canyon leach field is only marginally protected. The earthen berm around the stockpile has degraded and strawbales placed at the lower end of the stockpile had been driven over and should be replaced. Topsoil removed from a borrow area above Sediment Pond #6 was being redistributed over the coal refuse at Goose Island for reclamation in accordance with approved plans.

UMC 817.41-.57 Hydrologic Balance

Drainage control measures in Hardscrabble Canyon appeared functionally adequate. Recontour work on the Goose Island reclamation project provides for positive drainage and rechannelization of ephemeral stream channels over the refuse area. Drainage control into Sediment Pond #9 was well established. The inslopes of Sediment Pond #9 are nearly verticle. Of concern is the stability of the pond embankment along the undisturbed drainage diversion. There was evidence of water infiltration at the first cell of Sediment Pond #9. Mr. Wiley provided a pond certification report for Sediment Pond #9 dated September 17, 1984.

The main inlet to Sediment Pond #8 will function adequately; the pond inlet at the east end of the pond, draining the small area past the slotted drop drain, should be reestablished for direct drainage into the Sediment Pond. The berm around this area needs to be extended up to the slotted drain. The PVC drainage pipe by the upper substation in Sowbelly did not appear functional due to ponding at a low spot at the base of the berm.

Drainage control within the Castlegate Preparation plant area appeared adequate. The railroad was in the process of installing a drainage culvert across the Price River located across from the thickner overflow pond.

Surface grading at the Crandall Canyon Mine yard was in process, under a "finish" contract, at the time of this inspection. A low spot next to the ventilation building has been filled in. The shallow surface grade at the southwest corner of the warehouse pad provides marginal drainage control. Drainage control measures at the water tank pad should be maintained. The strawbale line across the lower end of

Page 3
ACT/007/004
January 7, 1985

the road has been damaged by squirrels to provide only marginal sedimentation control by a strawfilter mat.

Water monitoring data examined from May to June 1984 was in compliance. Surface water field measurements taken on September 10, 1984 were also examined. The flow measurements from drainage points in the mine from November 1982, January 1983, July 1984 and September 17, 1984 indicated a decrease flow over time.

UMC 817.100 Contemporaneous Reclamation

Rob Wiley reported that PRCC intends to reclaim the lower terraces of the Schoolhouse refuse area in summer of 1985.

UMC 817.101-.103 Backfilling and Grading

PRCC was in the process of regrading the Goose Island refuse area to the approximate original contour as approved for reestablishment of an ephemeral stream channel over the refuse area and along the access road. The refuse will be covered with a six inch layer of topsoil which will then be crimped with straw mulch to provide sediment control.

UMC 817.121-.126 Subsidence Control

Mining in the D seam of the #5 mine broke through to a shaft in Crandall Canyon. Longwall mining is underway in section 11W. Rob Wiley mentioned that PRCC may start up the fans in Crandall Canyon around October 1, 1984, depending on a UMW strike. PRCC next intends to drive entries north towards new leases and the permit boundary.

re

cc: Donna Griffin, OSM
Joe Helfrich, DOGM

Statistics: See Genwal memo dated October 1, 1984
0071Q-2-4