

September 15, 2003

TO: Internal File

THRU: Daron R. Haddock, Permit Supervisor

FROM: Steve Fluke, Reclamation Hydrogeologist

RE: Technical Field Visit, Hardscrabble and Sowbelly Canyons, Castle Gate Holding Co., Castle Gate Mine, C/007/004

Other Attendees: Joe Helfrich (DOGM), Johnny Pappas (Castle Gate)

Date & Time: September 10, 2003; 9:00 am

PURPOSE:

Meet with Castle Gate personnel to conduct a quarterly hydrology inspection along with the monthly inspection.

OBSERVATIONS:

Joe and I arrived at the Castle Gate office at approximately 9:00 am to meet with Johnny Pappas, Sr. Environmental Engineer for the mine. We discussed the water-monitoring program for Castle Gate. Johnny was informed that he does not need to submit DMRs to DOGM as long as the information is put in the DOGM database. Johnny said he would like to see this in writing before he changed his practice.

At the time of the site visit, the weather was partly cloudy to cloudy, cool (~65 F), with a slight breeze. There had been rain overnight and scattered showers had been common the past few weeks. Rain was falling by the end of the visit.

TECHNICAL FIELD VISIT

We visited Hardscrabble Canyon to observe conditions. Although the Price/Helper area had received much rain in the past few weeks, no signs of flow were observed in the stream channel and it was dry at the time of the site visit. The ground was wet and there was some ponding within the gouges. Johnny said that a few days earlier after heavy rain in Helper, there was little sign that it had rained in Hardscrabble Canyon when he went to visit it later in the day.

The Sowbelly Canyon stream channel was also dry, however, there was debris in the channel indicating recent flow. The ground was wet from recent storms and there was some ponding within gouges.

Upon returning to the office, Johnny recorded our observations (that the stream channels and water monitoring points were dry) as third-quarter monitoring data.

RECOMMENDATIONS/CONCLUSIONS:

Water monitoring is ongoing for the Castle Gate mine. We were able to observe that flow within the Hardscrabble and Sowbelly Canyons is infrequent, occurring only during and immediately following heavy rainfall.

cc: All Attendees
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