

August 28, 1981

Inspection Memo to File:

RE: Winter Quarters Canyon
Coal Exploration
Bishops Gate Coal Corp.
CEP/007/006
Carbon County, Utah

Inspectors Rex Fidler, Jean Doutre and Sandy Pruitt located an unpermitted exploration site on August 13th, in reponse to citizen notification received at the DOGM office on August 12, 1981. The site is located on the Winter Quarters Canyon access road (NE NW S. 5, T. 13 S., R. 7 E.) 500 feet north of a perennial drainage and fishery and along the perimeter of active farmland.

Scott Williams of POMCO informed the Division that Bishops Gate Coal Corporation had contracted POMCO to conduct lithologic and core tests on private coal leases in the Scofield Valley. At the time of the inspection, recontour work on an established site was underway and the drill rig was setting up on a new drill pad right next to it. Mr. Williams maintained that only lithologic testing had been conducted to that point and core tests were not initiated until August 19, 1981.

A Notice of Intent had not been filed with the DOGM office and environmental protection measures had not been implemented as required under UMC 815 for coal exploration activities (which include the gathering of environmental data as defined in the coal exploration definition of UMC 700.5, amended November 19, 1980). NOV No. 1 (81-2-11-3) was issued August 21, 1981, for failure to file a Notice of Intention to explore. Remedial action required that the written Notice of Intention to explore be filed with the Division prior to continuing exploration activities.

Due to a lack of overland flow diversions and runoff control at the disturbance, the recontoured area and the pad under development were muddy and the Winter Quarters Canyon access passable only with 4-wheel drive. A single sump for the drilling fluid had breached and mud had flowed onto the adjacent farmland but evidently not reaching the perennial stream. NOV No. 2 (81-2-11-3) was issued for failure to prevent erosion and additional contributions of suspended solids to stream flow or runoff outside the exploration area. The remedial action required immediate implementation of drainage control measures to divert undisturbed area runoff away from the exploration disturbance and retain or treat runoff from the disturbed area so as to prevent erosion and contributions of suspended solids to stream flow and runoff outside the permit area.

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No topsoil was removed for redistribution following recontour work in pad abandonment. NOV No. 3 (81-2-11-3) was issued for failure to remove and store topsoil for redistribution on disturbed areas. Remedial action required the removal of topsoil prior to disturbance. Storage of topsoil in a manner allowing for redistribution on this disturbed area assuring successful revegetation on all disturbances created after August 21, 1981.

A follow-up inspection was conducted on August 24, 1981, to determine if the violations had been adequately abated.

NOV No. 1

Exploration activity had ceased. A NOI submitted on August 21, 1981, was approved and filed by Gilbert Hunt and activity recommenced on August 25, 1981.

NOV No. 2

Overland diversion were constructed around the perimeter of the disturbance and a double sump was constructed to more adequately contain the drilling fluid.

NOV No. 3

As the pad disturbance was initiated prior to issuance, no topsoil was removed.

These violations were terminated on August 27, 1981, with the effective abatement date of August 24, 1981.

SANDY PRUITT ^{TLP}
RECLAMATION OFFICER

cc: Tom Ehmett, OSM
Scott Williams

SP/btm