

August 29, 1984

TO: Coal File, Inspection and Enforcement Folder
FROM: David Lof, Mining Field Specialist *DL*
RE: Verbal Approval to Decant Sediment Ponds #4, and #6,
Plateau Mining Company, Starpoint Mines, ACT/007/006,
Folder #7, Carbon County, Utah

Approval to Decant Sediment Ponds # 4 and #6

During a telephone conversation with Ben Grimes of Plateau on August 28, 1984 the operator was given verbal approval to decant from Sediment Ponds #4 and #6 by Division representatives Thomas Suchoski and David Lof. The approval was given with the following stipulations:

1. That four Settleable Solids samples be taken during the decanting process for each pond.

Sample one - five to ten minutes after the start of dewatering

Sample two - following decanting of approximately one fourth of the total volume to be decanted.

Sample three - approximately half way through the decanting process.

Sample four - when three fourths of the volume has been decanted.
2. If at any time the operator determines that the Settleable Solids standard of 0.5 ml/l is not being met, decanting must cease immediately.
3. The operator must submit, within one week of decanting, the results of the Settleable Solids sampling to the Division.
4. The operator must conduct the decanting of the sediment ponds in accordance with their NPDES Permit.

Mr. Grimes said that he had taken Settleable Solid samples from the two ponds earlier in the day and found them to be in compliance with the Settleable Solids effluent limitation of 0.5 ml/l. The amount of Settleable Solids in the sample taken from Sediment Pond #4 was less than 0.1 ml/l, the settleable solid in Sediment Pond #6 was approximately 0.25 ml/l. Mr. Grimes said that

Page 2
ACT/007/006
August 29, 1984

to take the sample he had opened up the decant for the sediment ponds and let it run for approximately five minutes in order to let the discharge stabilize so that he could take a representative sample.

There are two reasons for decanting the sediment ponds:

1. To insure proper detention volume for the 10 year, 24 hour event.
2. To decrease the volume of water in the pond in order to make it easier to remove the accumulated sediment in the ponds with a drag line.

Sediment Pond #5

Mr Grimes said that he had also tried to take a sample from Sediment Pond #5 but when he opened up the gate to the dewatering device and no water came out. Mr. Grimes said that he thought that the dewatering spillway may have become plugged with coal fines when the sediment pond was filled with slurry earlier this year. He said that he planned to get the dewatering device spillway unplugged in the next couple of days. If they can't unplug it he will telephone the Division to see if an alternative method for dewatering the pond can be agreed upon. The water level in the pond needs to be lowered so that: it will have proper detention volume, they can finish enlarging the pond, and the dewatering device spillway can be maintained.

re

cc: Jodie Merriman
Ben Grimes
D. Wayne Hedberg
Joe Helfrich
Tom Suchoski
94460-44-45