

Document Information Form

Mine Number: C/007/006

File Name: Internal

To: DOGM

From:

Person N/A

Company N/A

Date Sent: MARCH 22, 1984

Explanation:

INSPECTION MEMO TO COAL FILE.

cc:

File in:
C/ 007 , 006 , Internal

- Refer to:
- Confidential
 - Shelf
 - Expandable

Date _____ For additional information

March 22, 1984

Inspection Memo
to Coal File:

RE: Plateau Mining Company
Starpoint Mine
ACT/007/006, Folder #7
Carbon County, Utah

DATE: October 14, 1983
TIME: 10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
WEATHER: Cold and partly cloudy
COMPANY OFFICIALS: Ben Grimes
STATE OFFICIALS: David Lof
ENFORCEMENT ACTION: Notice of Violation N83-4-14-1

Compliance With Permanent Performance Standards

UMC 771 et al Permits

The following permits and approval letters were reviewed in the operators mine office:

1. A January 21, 1982 permit issued by OSM with 11 special stipulations attached to it. On August 16, 1983 the Division sent the operator a letter requesting additional information on those special stipulations which were still unresolved. On September 23, 1983 the operator responded to the Division's letter. At the time of this inspection the Division had not made comment on the operators response.
2. A January 27, 1982 letter from the Division granting final approval of the operators mining and reclamation plan .
3. A September 6, 1983 letter from the Division granting limited approval of the operator's subsoil stockpile modification submitted in response to NOV N83-4-7-3, #1 of 3. The letter also approved the operators plans for abatement of violation #2 of 3.
4. A September 19, 1983 letter from the Division granting approval of the operators modification plans for the trash bin area dated July 13, 1983.

UMC 817.21 -.25 Topsoil

The topsoil stockpile immediately to the southeast of Sediment Pond #6 was adequately marked and was well vegetated.

The subsoil stockpile was hydromulched on t inspection. However, the operator still needed access road on the west side of the stockpile. the terraces, where the terraces had been repai large precipitation event, needed to be reseed

File in:

- Confidential
 Shelf
 Expandable

Refer to Record No 0026 Date _____

In C/ 007, 006, Internal

For additional information _____

March 22, 1984

Inspection Memo
to Coal File:

RE: Plateau Mining Company
Starpoint Mine
ACT/007/006, Folder #7
Carbon County, Utah

DATE: October 14, 1983
TIME: 10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
WEATHER: Cold and partly cloudy
COMPANY OFFICIALS: Ben Grimes
STATE OFFICIALS: David Lof
ENFORCEMENT ACTION: Notice of Violation N83-4-14-1

Compliance With Permanent Performance Standards

UMC 771 et al Permits

The following permits and approval letters were reviewed in the operators mine office:

1. A January 21, 1982 permit issued by OSM with 11 special stipulations attached to it. On August 16, 1983 the Division sent the operator a letter requesting additional information on those special stipulations which were still unresolved. On September 23, 1983 the operator responded to the Division's letter. At the time of this inspection the Division had not made comment on the operators response.
2. A January 27, 1982 letter from the Division granting final approval of the operators mining and reclamation plan .
3. A September 6, 1983 letter from the Division granting limited approval of the operator's subsoil stockpile modification submitted in response to NOV N83-4-7-3, #1 of 3. The letter also approved the operators plans for abatement of violation #2 of 3.
4. A September 19, 1983 letter from the Division granting approval of the operators modification plans for the trash bin area dated July 13, 1983.

UMC 817.21 -.25 Topsoil

The topsoil stockpile immediately to the southeast of Sediment Pond #6 was adequately marked and was well vegetated.

The subsoil stockpile was hydromulched on the Tuesday prior to my inspection. However, the operator still needed to grade out and reseed the access road on the west side of the stockpile. Also, five small areas along the terraces, where the terraces had been repaired following an extremely large precipitation event, needed to be reseeded.

Inspection Memo to Coal File
ACT/007/006
March 22, 1984
Page 2

UMC 817.41-.52 Hydrologic Balance

Mr. Grimes informed me that a very large storm event had occurred on the week-end of October 1, 1983. The precipitation event was large enough to cause sediment ponds 4, 5, and 6 to discharge through their emergency spillways. In addition the downspout for Sediment Pond #5 was torn off by the force of the discharge. The operator is now in the process of repairing the downspout for Sediment Pond #5.

The sediment basin at the east end of the refuse pile was full of sediment due to the precipitation event. According to Mr. Grimes, this same basin had been cleaned out the week prior to the storm. Runoff discharging from the sediment basin during the precipitation event caused severe erosion on the downslope below the outlet. Many cubic yards of material were displaced by the erosion. I discussed with the operator the need to; clean out the sediment basin, install a downspout to convey runoff from the sediment basin down the slope in a controlled manner, and the repair and stabilization of the slope.

Sediment Pond #6 was still full of runoff from the storm. I noted that there was very little vegetation on the downstream side of the sediment pond embankment. I discussed with Mr. Grimes the possibility of reseeding the embankment this fall.

Following the inspection of Sediment Pond #6 we walked the entire length of Undisturbed Diversion #14 and the access road to Sediment Pond #6 which runs parallel to the diversion. We found several areas where the diversion and the road had been significantly damaged by the storm.

As we walked west from Sediment Pond #6 the first area was directly across from, or south of, the refuse pile sediment basin. A large amount of rock and soil material had been displaced and blocked the undisturbed channel forcing runoff to cross the road and cause considerable erosion on the road embankment. The blockage of the diversion caused the runoff to be diverted to Sediment Pond #6. Apparently the material which blocked the diversion in this area had come from a soft spot in the channel approximately 75 feet upstream, where the channel had been eroded to a depth of approximately 6 feet below its original surface.

The second area was approximately 250 to 300 feet further upstream, apparently the channel was too small at that point to control the runoff so it passed over the road and caused some minor erosion on the road embankment.

The third problem area was another 300 feet up the diversion and the exact same problem occurred as that at problem area #2.

The fourth problem area was another 100 feet upstream from the third area, approximately where the access road crosses over the old stream channel in that area. The same problem existed here as at the first problem area, the upper portion of the undisturbed diversion, which had appeared to be adequately sized during a previous inspection, had eroded substantially and some of the materials which were displaced had blocked the channel causing the runoff to cross over the access road causing substantial erosion, and conveying undisturbed runoff to Sediment Pond #6.

During a July 20, 1983 inspection of the same diversion by myself and Frank Smaila of Plateau, I told him that the diversion was questionable and that they, Plateau, should check the design specifications on it to make sure that it was in compliance with their approved permit. Following this inspection I returned to the Division offices and reviewed the operator's mine permit and found that the diversion ditch was infact undersized and that it was not riprapped as required. These two facts evidently led to the problems discussed above. In addition I found that Sediment Pond #6 was designed to handle runoff from approximately 31 acres of surface area and that because diversion #14 was being blocked an additional 314 acres of surface area was contributing runoff to Sediment Pond #6. This more than likely led to the sediment pond discharging from the emergency spillway during the precipitation event. Because of the problems with the diversion Notice of Violation N83-4-14-1 was issued it reads as follows:

Nature of the Violation

Failure to operate in accordance with the approved mine plan.

Failure to construct and maintain sediment control measures in such a manner as to prevent to the extent possible additional contributions of sediment to stream flow or runoff outside the permit area and to minimize erosion to the extent possible.

Provisions of the Regulations, Act or Permit Violated

UCA 40-10-22(1)(c)
UMC 771.19
UCA 40-10-18 (2)(i)(ii)
UMC 817.43 (c)
UMC 817.45

Portion of the Operation to Which Notice Applies

Diversion Ditch #14

Remedial Action Required

A. Maintain diversion in accordance with the approved mine plan.

OR

B. Submit complete and adequate plans to the Division modifying the design details for the diversion. The plans must be submitted immediately upon receipt of Division approval.

Time for Abatement

Two weeks from date of receipt of this Notice.

The violation was written on October 17, 1983 and received by the operator on October 20, 1983.

The Division received plans for the modification of the diversion on November 4, 1983. The plans called for the lining of the diversion with a 54 inch diameter half-round culvert at a minimum slope of 5%. On November 15, 1983, the Division responded to the operators plans submitted for abatement of the NOV informing them that we found the use of the half-round culvert to be acceptable and that they should go ahead and order the materials immediately, in addition we requested that they submit plans for the proposed rock apron outlet protection, immediately. The operator was also told to repair and maintain the existing ditch until the half round culvert could be installed. The plans for the energy disipator for the outlet of the diversion ditch were received on December 6, 1983 they were reviewed and the plans were approved on January 12, 1984, with the stipulation that the plans be implemented no later than May 15, 1984.

While in the operator's mine office I discussed with him UMC 817.46 (t) which requires that operators inspect all sediment ponds on a weekly basis and keep current reports on these inspections. I informed Mr. Grimes that I would be looking for these inspection reports during my next inspection.

UMC 817.52 Surface and Ground Water Monitoring

A review of the operators surface and ground water monitoring data did not turn up any problems except that they had forgotten to analyze the samples taken from Sediment Ponds# 5 and 6 on October 7, 1983 for Manganese. I pointed this out to Mr. Grimes and he promised to insure that this parameter would be analyzed from this point forward.

Inspection Memo to Coal File
ACT/007/006
March 22, 1984
Page 5

On August 30, 1983 the operator received a letter from State Health increasing their TDS limitations for their NPDES permit to:

1. TDS maximum of 200 mg/l per liter
2. Total maximum one ton of salt per day when decanting from the ponds.



David Lof
Field Specialist

DL:re
80490

cc: Jodie Merriman, OSM
Ben Grimes, Plateau
Joe Helfrich, DOGM
Sue Linner, DOGM

Statistics:

Vehicle: Ex49611 - 688 miles
Per Diem: 1 person x 3 days, 4 hours = \$147.71
Grant: A&E