0027

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

A partial inspection was conducted at the above mentioned mine site by Division Inspector David Lof on November 8, and 9, 1983. He was accompanied by Bob Lauman on November 8, 1983. On November 9, 1983 he was accompanied underground by Mark Wangsgard and on the same day he was accompanied by Ben Grimes on the completion of his surface tour. The following areas were inspected and discussed with Mr. Lauman on November 8, 1983:

1. Since the October 14, 1983 inspection the operator had installed a downspout at the outlet of the sediment basin located at the east end of the refuse pile. The operator had installed an 18 inch corregated metal pipe in the embankment of the sediment basin and riprapped the face of the embankment in this area. When the operator installed the downspout they tied each section of culvert together with cable and anchored the cable in the embankment in order to keep the culvert from coming apart. The gullies formed by the discharge of the storm runoff from the October 1, 1983 precipitation event had been backfilled. However, since they had backfilled the gullies it appeared that a new gully was forming along the south side of the downspout, apparently it was either from a joint that was leaking or from piping along the culvert through the embankment, the operator was asked to address this problem. The operator still needed to finish cleaning out the sediment basin and seed the downslope which was backfilled this fall.

2. There were no erosion problems evident on the topsoil stockpiles located across the road from the refuse pile. However, I was concerned about the amount of thistle growing on the stockpile. The thistle was so thick that it was hard to walk through. My concern was that it may be forcing out the more desireable grasses and forbs which would better stabilize and maintain the viability of the topsoil. The thistle was growing on the topsoil which had been seeded one and a half to two years previously. The Corner Canyon topsoil is also located in this area and is delineated by signs and posts. The operator has seeded, mulched, and covered the topsoil stockpile from Corner Canyon with netting. Some germination has already taken place this fall.

3. I looked at the topsoiled area on the re
there was quite meager except for thistl
erosion problem on this area.

File in:
☐ Confidential
☐ Shelf
☐ Expandable
Refer to Record No 0027 Date
In C/ 007, 006, Internal
For additional information

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3. I looked at the topsoiled area on the refuse pile, the vegetation there was quite meager except for thistle. There was very little erosion problem on this area.

4. During the inspection of Sediment Pond #4, which is located below the processing plant and coal loading facilities, it appeared as though water may be passing through the north side of the sediment pond embankment at the interface of the embankment with the side of the canyon. There was a wet area which could be seen on the downstream side of the embankment and the canyon side. The top of the wet area appeared to be at approximately the same level as the water level in the sediment pond. The pond is located in the bottom of the canyon on the north side, which is cut away, the north side of the pond embankment abuts the cut portion of this side of the canyon. The wet area on the north side of the canyon extended from the sediment pond embankment down canyon for a distance of approximately 50 to 75 feet. While discussing this with the operator, we felt that it was hard to say whether or not the water was due to natural seepage in the bottom of the canyon or, if it was due to water in the sediment pond seeping into the sediment pond embankment and being transmitted along the canyon wall through different soil layers. Upon discussing the problem with Division Hydrologist, Wayne Hedberg, it was decided that before any determination could be made as to what, if any, remedial action should be taken that an attempt should be made to determine what the cause of the seepage was. On December 1, 1983 the Division received a letter from the operator stating that they would install two piezometers, one in the pond embankment and the other somewhere in the bank below the pond. The exact location of which will depend upon where an auger hole can be made.

   While inspecting the sediment pond we also looked at the diversion from the pond for the primary and emergency discharge. The sizing of the diversion appeared to be questionable and I asked the operator to determine whether or not the diversion would be able to adequately handle the flow from an emergency discharge, should one occur, and to maintain the diversion accordingly.

5. There is a Class III road which is used to access Sediment Pond # 4 a portion of which is allegedly on privately owned land not controlled by the operator and not within their permit area. This road passes over the perennial stream which is located in the bottom of the canyon below the mine site. This stream has a potential peak flow for the 50 year, 24 hour event in excess of 130 cfs. Where the road passes over the stream there was a 6 inch steel pipe under the road through which the stream was suppose to pass. This is fine during normal flow but during any storm event runoff would certainly pass over the road causing erosional problems. On December 1, 1983, the Division received a letter from the operator requesting permission to install a stream ford at the stream crossing.

6. The downspout for the Sediment Pond #5 discharge had been repaired, with each section of pipe being secured with cables which are tied into deadmen in the sediment pond embankment. The sediment pond was full of sediment almost to the level of the primary discharge . The operator had started to clean out the sediment pond with a front-end loader but the material was too wet and the ground too soft for the loader to clean out very much material. I discussed with both Mr. Lauman and Mr. Grimes the need to clean out the sediment pond immediately. During a telephone conversation with Mr. Grimes on November 17, 1983, he told me that they were able to contract a hydraulic excavator to come to the mine site to clean out the sediment pond.

The following areas were inspected on November 9, 1983 with Mark Wangsgard:

1. We inspected the breakout at Mudwater Canyon first. We found that the vegetation along the outside edge of the pad was coming in very well and that the operator had installed a number of strawbale dikes accross the pad to control runoff on the pad. These dikes broke up the pad into many smaller sections and should adequately control the sediment and runoff from the pad.

2. We next inspected the Corner Canyon breakouts and development. The operator was in the process of erecting a frame for the motor and instrument building, and they were piecing together the fan. They were also digging the foundation for the ventilation ducts coming out of the portal. Some of the materials which had been excavated had temporarily been placed in the sediment basin. I told them that this would be alright as long as it was cleaned out this fall or winter since from this point on they would only be receiving snowfall at the site. There were several inches of snow on the ground at the time of my inspection.

The following items were discussed and inspected with Mr. Grimes on November 9, 1983:

1. I discussed with him the additional information which was needed to complete the abatement plans for NOV N83-14-1. I also discussed with him the need to implement their proposed interim measures immediately.

2. We discussed the status of their approval for the subsoil stockpile access road. Mr. Grimes indicated to me that they had just responded to a letter from the Division requesting additional information regarding the road.

3. An inspection of the subsoil stockpile showed that the areas which had been disturbed by the caterpillar during the reconstruction of several areas along the terraces had been seeded and that the temporary access across the west side of the subsoil stockpile had been graded out and seeded also.

4. Since my October 14, 1983 inspection the operator had dewatered Sediment Ponds #4 and #5 and Sediment Pond #6 had leaked to the point where it did not need to be dewatered. Three samples were taken from #4 during the decanting procedure. All analysis results for the samples indcated that there were no problems with meeting effluent limitations.

5. The grading had been completed in the noncoal waste bin area south of the Lion Deck and a loose straw filter put in place in front of the inlet to the culvert as required.

6. There were no apparent problems with Sediment Pond #1

7. We inspected the filter for "Sediment Pond" #2, the filter appeared to be in good condition and functioning as intended. However, I questioned the adequacy of the structure in being able to adequately treat the runoff from the disturbed area which drains into it. I discussed with Mr. Grimes and Mr. Lauman the need to reevaluate their plans for this area, because of its continued use as a borrow area and the need to provide sediment controls for the borrow area and disturbed area between the rock tunnel and the borrow area. The original approval for the borrow area called for the construction of the sediment pond upon reaching the final configuration of the borrow area. However, because of the extended time of use of the borrow area; not knowing how long it would before the final configuration was reached; and the fact that an adequate sediment pond or sediment control structure is needed to insure adequate detention time for a given event, this plan should be reevaluated. During my November 17, 1983 phone conversation with Mr. Grimes he indicated to me that they would be submitting plans for the reconstruction of this sediment control structure with the re-evaluation of the rest of their sediment control system this fall.

8. We walked the length of Undisturbed Diversion # 6 above the refuse area and found that it was adequately maintained except for small erosional problems in the channel itself. The operator may need to line the channel in certain areas and provide energy dissipators in other areas to control the erosion in the channel. The areas in the channel which had been maintained using the caterpillar had been reseeded and the outlet structure for the diversion was in good shape.

9. There was evidence of additional settling on the south side of the Lion Deck parking lot. It was evident that there is in excess of three feet of displacement and that the settling had interrupted disturbed area runoff drainage paths. This led to short circuiting of the system and some minor erosion on the downslope from the Lion Deck to Sediment Pond #1. In one area runoff can pond and enter the fill via surface cracks in the pad and possibly saturate the fill Saturation of the fill could lead to slope failure which could cause considerable damage to Sediment Pond #1 and the undisturbed diversion below. During my November 17, 1983 phone conversation with Mr. Grimes he told me that they were in the process of bringing in road grade material to restore the Lion Deck to its proper grade along the south side of the parking lot in order to promote proper drainage. In addition, they are having a study done by Rollins, Brown and Gunnel on the stability of the fill associated with the Lion Deck to determine the cause of the settling.

David Lof
Field Specialist

DL:re

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

Statistics:
Vehicle: EX49611 - 686 miles
Per Diem: 1 person X 3 days, 6 hours = $141.32
Grant: A&E
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