

September 16, 1985

TO: Coal File, Inspection and Enforcement Folder  
 FROM: Barton Kale, Mining Field Specialist *Box*  
 RE: Plateau Mining Company, Star Point Mine, ACT/007/006,  
Folder #7, Carbon County, Utah

DATE: August 20, 21, 1985  
TIME: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  
WEATHER: Clear and warm  
COMPANY OFFICIALS: Bob Lauman, Ben Grimes  
STATE OFFICIALS: Barton Kale  
FEDERAL OFFICIAL: Henry Austin  
ENFORCEMENT ACTION: NOV 85-6-9-2

COMPLIANCE WITH PERMANENT PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

UMC 817.11 Signs and Markers

All applicable permit approvals and plans were available as required.

UMC 817.11 Signs and Markers

The mine entrance sign was posted as required as were perimeter markers. The perimeter around the unit train needs to be more clearly defined.

UMC 817.21-.25 Topsoil

No topsoil problems were noted at this time.

UMC 817.41 - .52 Hydrologic Balance

Corner Canyon, Mud Water Canyon

The underground breakouts were inspected at this time. The Corner Canyon fan site was generally in good shape. There is a pad that was originally constructed for a helicopter landing space. There is equipment parked here which not only precludes its original use, but is close to the top of the berm leaving the probability of runoff, making a quick exit off the site. It was suggested to the operator that he move this equipment further inside the contained area.

The Mud Water Canyon Pad was in good shape, strawbales were strategically placed to contain any runoff and all were well maintained.

Upon inspection of the mine water discharge at this site, it was noted that the discharge was dark enough to signal a compliance problem. After immediate investigation by the operator it was

determined that an over the weekend power outage had caused underground pumps at the sumps to shut off. At the beginning of the week the underground sumps were discovered flooded. To rectify the problem underground personnel started the pumps again and started pumping the flooded mine area back into the sumps at the same time. This did not allow for enough detention time in the sumps and contaminated water was pumped out of the mine. As a result NOV 85-6-9-2, 1 of 2 was issued and reads as follows:

Nature of the Violation

Failure to meet effluent limitations from discharge from underground workings.

Provisions of the Regulation Violated

UMC 817.42 a (1)

Portion of the Operation to Which Notice Applies

Mud Water Canyon discharge point.

Remedial Action Required

Meet effluent limitations for all discharges.

Time for Abatement

24 hours.

Upon returning the next day the inspector again inspected the discharge and found the problem had been resolved. The water was sampled and found to be of acceptable quality. The original sample has been brought to State Health for analysis. According to the operator the discharge from this site is a constant 250 gallons/minute. The violation was terminated upon the next day's inspection.

Lion Deck Area

Inspection of the Lion Deck area revealed only one problem. The undisturbed drainage ditch behind the shop had been plowed flat during maintenance. As a result of this ditch not being functional, NOV 85-6-9-2, #2 of 2 was issued and reads as follows:

Nature of the Violation

Failure to maintain undisturbed diversion ditch.

Provision of the Regulation Violated

UMC 817.43 (c)

Portion of Operation to Which Notice Applies

Undisturbed ditch behind shop at Lion Deck.

Remedial Action Required

Repair and maintain ditch.

Time for Abatement

One week or before next precipitation event which ever comes first.

The trash bin area was inspected and found to be satisfactory. The strawbales and silt fence configuration is in need of maintenance before the next major precipitation event.

Underflow Ponds - Prep Plant

No major problem exist at this time other than routine maintenance. The underflow ponds need cleaning before the end of the fall.

UMC 817.52 Surface and Groundwater Monitoring.

The NPDES permit was available upon request and was dated March 22, 1985. Permit #UT-0023736 has an expiration date of December 31, 1986 and the receiving water is a tributary of Serviceberry Creek.

There were no water monitoring or quality problems (other than discussed above) at this time.

UMC 817.89 Disposal of Noncoal Waste

There were no problems along these lines at this time.

UMC 817.100 Contemporaneous Reclamation

There was no activity at the Star Point #1 Mine during this visit. The coal shute area remains the top priority at this time. The pit needs recontouring and will pose an interesting problem.

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UMC 817.180 Other Transportation Facilities

The unit train area is progressing. There were no problems noted at this time. The conveyor is under construction and is progressing. As mentioned above, perimeter markers need to be improved at this site.

re

cc: Donna Griffin  
Ben Grimes  
Joe Helfrich  
Sue Linner  
Ken May

Statistics: See Sunedco memo dated September 4, 1985.

0343Q-4-7