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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
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November 4, 1991

TO: Pamela Grubaugh-Littig, Permit Supervisor

FROM: Tom Munson, Senior Reclamation Hydrologist 

RE: Request for a Variance for Impoundments, Star Point Mine, Cyprus Plateau Mining, ACT/007/006-DO-91A, File #2, Carbon County

Analysis

The operator has requested a variance from Rule R-614-301-743 and 744. The rules read as follows:

- 743. Impoundments.
- 743.100. General Requirements. The requirements of R614-301-743 apply to both temporary and permanent impoundments.
- 743.110. Impoundments meeting the criteria of the MSHA, 30 CFR 77.216(a) will comply with the requirements of 77.216 and R614-301-512.240, R614-301-514.300, R614-301-515.200, R614-301-533.100 through R614-301-533.600, R614-301-733.220 through R614-301-733.224, and R614-301-743. The plan required to be submitted to the District Manager of MSHA under 30 CFR 77.216 will also be submitted to the Division as part of the permit application.
- 743.120. The design of impoundments will be prepared and certified as described under R614-301-512. Impoundments will have adequate freeboard to resist overtopping by waves and by sudden increases in storage volume.
- 743.130. Impoundments will include a combination of principal and emergency spillways which will be designed and constructed to safely pass the design precipitation event specified in R614-301-743.200 or R614-301-743.300.
- 743.140. Impoundments will be inspected as described under R614-301-514.300.
- 743.200. The design precipitation event for the spillways for a permanent impoundment will be a 50-year, 6-hour precipitation event, or such larger event as the Division may require.
- 743.300. The design precipitation event for the spillways for a temporary impoundment is a 25-year, 6-hour precipitation event, or such larger event as demonstrated to be needed by the Division.

744. Discharge Structures.

744.100. Discharge from sedimentation ponds, permanent and temporary impoundments, coal processing waste dams and embankments, and diversions will be controlled, by energy dissipators, riprap channels and other devices, where necessary to reduce erosion to prevent deepening or enlargement of stream channels, and to minimize disturbance of the hydrologic balance.

744.200. Discharge structures will be designed according to standard engineering design procedures.

The rationale for this variance, as outlined by the operator, is as follows:

- 1) The impoundments receive no surface water runoff due to an interceptor ditch at the top of the cut on the up gradient side and small diketop ditches around each impoundment at the base of the cut slopes to prevent surface runoff from enter the impoundments.
- 2) The impoundments are a enclosed recirculating system and there can be no discharge by Utah Bureau of Water Pollution Control mandate.
- 3) There is reference to an emergency overflow pipe but no size is given and a principal overflow is also referenced. These being in place for emergency situations only.

Recommendation

The operator has not submitted detailed designs delineating these designs(i.e. culvert sizes, ditch sizes and locations and any pertinent calculations) other than referencing them in a letter to the division received by fax on November 1,1991. In concept this request holds validity but detailed certified designs must be submitted prior to any approval.

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