



## REGION V ON-SITE INSPECTION REPORT

KAISER STEEL COMPANY  
SUNNYSIDE MINE

*ACT/007/207 fill in  
paper  
mines.*

DATE: November 2, 1978  
TIME: 2:00 p.m.  
WEATHER: Rainy  
COUNTY AND STATE: Carbon County, Utah  
COMPANY OFFICIALS: Mr. Berry Grosely  
STATE OFFICIALS: Ron Daniels, Mary Ann Wright  
Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining  
OSM OFFICIALS: Tom Ehmett

GENERAL COMMENTS

The Sunnyside Mine is an underground operation located near Sunnyside, Utah. The mine produces approximately 750,000 tons of coal annually. The quality of the coal is about 13,000 BTU's per pound with the sulfur content 1/2 of 1% to 3%. The mine was originally started around 1900 (the mining in the area, that is). The ownership of the coal is a combination of Federal, fee and State coal. Currently there are nine portals at this operation.

COMPLIANCE WITH INTERIM REGULATIONS717.11b Copies of Applicable Permits and Other Records

All copies of applicable permits and other records were viewed at the mine site office.

717.12 Signs and Markers

The permit identification sign located at the public entrance to the mine does not contain adequate information according to the regulations. The information needed on the sign is the phone number, the mailing address, and the permit number.

717.14 Backfilling and Grading

Some grading has taken place at this site. In an area south of the tippie area, fields previously used as surface facilities are being reclaimed and are now being returned to alfalfa fields. This is also the area where some of the major sedimentation ponds exist. However, there are some areas which are in need of stabilization and grading; particularly the embankments near the fanshaft located in Section 18 are in need of erosion and stabilization control. An attempt to stabilize this area has been made by the planting of trees, but erosion is still evident. Action is necessary to correct this deficiency. No new face-ups have been started at this site since the effective date of the Act.

717.15 Disposal of Spoil and Waste

A solid waste dump from the preparation plant is being constructed southwest of the tipple area. This dump is being constructed in the proper width lifts and is being covered by non-toxic material which is taken from the sedimentation ponds during the clean out phase. The access road leading to the waste dump is in need of sediment control. Runoff from the road is not controlled and is contributing to the sediment load. Proper ditches or other methods should be used to control this problem. Sedimentation ponds were also not evident downstream from the waste dump. This will be necessary to control runoff from the area. These ponds should be constructed as soon as possible.

717.17 Water Quality Standards and Effluent Limitations

Sedimentation ponds have been recently constructed and reconstructed at this site. One series of ponds, in particular southwest of the tipple area, seems to be doing an effective job. However, where the water exits these ponds, it meets the effluent limitations. It then traverses over a large area which has been disturbed in preparation for planting alfalfa. While running over this area, sediment is picked up in the water, and by the time it exits the area it is very turbid and would not likely meet the effluent limitations in regards to total suspended solids. This area needs to be revegetated and stabilized as soon as possible. Also, the embankment and dam structures for the ponds themselves need to be revegetated and stabilized to prevent an additional sedimentation load. As stated in the previous section, sedimentation ponds are needed to collect any runoff from the waste pile area. In the north end of the permit area, near the airshaft located in Section 17, another series of sedimentation ponds exists. Water is taken from the deep mine, at this point, and released into the sedimentation ponds, which in turn exits into Grassy Trail Creek. There are four NPDES discharge points at this mine. These points were all checked, and although all were not discharging, the ones that were discharging were within the limitations of the permits. Surface water monitoring is conducted at this site through the NPDES system. Ground water monitoring at this site is non-existent. A ground water monitoring plan is required to be implemented and should first be approved by the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining as stated in the regulations. This should be done as soon as possible.

The drainage that enters the three sediment ponds southwest of the tipple area flows along a road which is adjacent to the

Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad tracks. This drainage is flowing over the road and not contained in any ditching system. A ditching system is needed here to prevent added sedimentation to the water by vehicle traffic.

717.20 Topsoil Handling and Revegetation

As stated earlier in the report, an area southwest of the tipple is presently being reclaimed to an alfalfa field. Approximately 50% of this area has been reclaimed and seems to be successful. Another portion nearer the tipple is due to be reclaimed in the near future. This area should be reclaimed during the next growing season to prevent additional suspended solids from entering the streamflow.



Thomas E. Ehmett  
Reclamation Specialist

DATE	<u>1-11-79</u>
FILES	<u>✓</u>
STATE	<u>✓</u>
READ. FILE	<u>✓</u>
REG. DIR.	<u>✓</u>
U.S.G.S.	<u>✓</u>
B.L.M.	<u>✓</u>
TRIBE	<u>    </u>
B.I.A.	<u>    </u>