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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING

Reclamation and Enforcement

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Tom? Yes.
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OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

29 NOV 1979

Mr. Ron Daniels
Coordinator of Mined Land Development
Utah Department of Resources
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
1588 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

Dear Mr. ~~Daniels~~:

This office has reviewed Kaiser Steel Corporation's plan for proposed sedimentation ponds for Icelander Gully and at the coarse refuse pile at the Sunnyside Mine. We have found this plan to be incomplete and not in compliance with applicable regulations.

The plan notes that "the sedimentation pond is a treatment facility and not for containment" and as such the "design is planned for a retention time of one hour. . . ." As reflected in the regulations, OSM considers sedimentation ponds (used in concert with other sediment control measures) to be appropriate technology currently available to control additional contributions of sediment to stream flow outside a permit area. In order for suspended matter to settle out of runoff from disturbed lands, water must be retained in sedimentation ponds for a period of time commensurate with the particle size distribution of the sediment and any flocculation treatment employed. OSM recommends that sedimentation ponds shall provide a theoretical detention time of not less than 24 hours unless an applicant demonstrates that the size distribution or the specific gravity of the suspended matter is such that applicable effluent limitations are achieved and maintained. In such a case, a theoretical detention time of not less than 10 hours may be approved. However, total suspended solids in sediment pond discharges shall not be greater than 45 mg/l (maximum allowable) and 30 mg/l (average of daily value for 30 consecutive discharge days).

Therefore, the plan must demonstrate that both sedimentation ponds will have a theoretical detention time of not less than 24 hours unless it is demonstrated that a lower theoretical detention time will meet the effluent limitations.



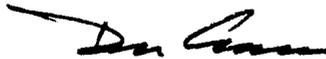
The cross section view provided for the proposed sedimentation ponds shows that the downstream side slopes of the embankment will have slopes of 1v:2h. These slopes may be unstable when saturated. Therefore, the plan must show reduced embankment slopes with a combined upstream and downstream slide slopes of not less than 1v:5h or a stability analysis under saturated condition should be provided to adequately demonstrate stability.

Based on review of this plan, it is unclear as to how water from the disturbed areas will be conveyed into the appropriate sedimentation pond. The section view of the proposed sedimentation ponds does show that the inflow into the sedimentation ponds would be via an existing channel and/or an interceptor ditch. Without a topographic map of adequate scale, it is impossible to know whether runoff from undisturbed lands will also flow into this pond. Therefore, the plan must include a topographic map providing greater detail (perhaps a scale of one inch equals 400 feet) showing the location of the proposed sedimentation ponds, all diversions that will convey runoff from the disturbed lands into the sedimentation ponds, and the natural drainage of the area.

The plan must also show an appropriate dewatering device.

A copy of this letter is enclosed for transmittal by your office to the applicant. We will not continue processing the application until adequate information is provided. If you have any questions, please contact John Nadolski of my staff (303-837-3773).

Sincerely,



DONALD A. CRANE