



STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES
Oil, Gas & Mining

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September 21, 1989

TO: RICHARD V. SMITH, PERMIT SUPERVISOR

FROM: BILL WARMACK, RECLAMATION SPECIALIST *WAW*

RE: MITIGATION PLANS FOR GRASSY TRAIL CREEK, SUNNYSIDE RECLAMATION AND SALVAGE, INC., SUNNYSIDE MINE, ACT/007/007, FOLDER #2, CARBON COUNTY, UT.

On September 19, 1989, I accompanied Larry Dalton (Division of Wildlife Resources), Lynn Kunzler (DOGM), and Karl Houskeeper (SRS) during an assessment of Grassy Trail Creek. The purpose of Mr. Dalton's field evaluation was to ascertain whether or not further mitigation measures are required for Grassy Trail Creek. Two separate discharges from the Whitmore Pond in March and April deposited oil and/or sludge between Whitmore Pond and Pasture Canyon, approximately 3/4 mile.

Below the confluence of the Creek and the mine water discharge, a black-colored substance was noticeable on the surface of the creek rubble. Although Mr. Dalton's concerns were primarily with the removal of this particular matter, it appeared as though the substance was some form of algae, possible a blue-green. According to Mr. Dalton, the oil waste (flocculant sludge) is toxic to the fish eggs which would be deposited during spawning.

Additionally, Mr. Dalton agreed that a natural restoration is taking place, as evidenced by two forms of aquatic life. However, the natural process might take several years before a complete restoration would occur (if at all). Therefore, Mr. Dalton re-emphasized hydro-vacuuming the creek to increase the chances of successful recovery even though the established aquatic life would be diminished. The portion of the creek from the mine water discharge to Pasture Canyon was recommended for clean up by Mr. Dalton.

At Pasture Canyon, the creek did not appear as black. Siltation structures upstream were removed per the Division's request. Mr. Dalton requested that these structures be reinstalled to trap sediment and silt from the above impacted area. This location also contained some aquatic life.

Deposition pools above and below the mine water confluence, and also at Pasture Canyon were observed. Silt was colored grey to black (stratified), and had a gritty to smooth texture indicating a mixture of sand and clay particles. Coal fine deposits were noticeable below the mine water discharge as well as above.

Finally, Mr. Dalton addressed Dr. Baumann's June 26, 1989 report. Apparently, Mr. Dalton feels that several of the issues were inadequately discussed and presented; distances between stations, for example, were misrepresented. Further, Mr. Dalton questioned the validity of the recent biological data and comparison to the 1980 Winget report.