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June 7, 1989

TO: Richard V. Smith, Permit Supervisor

FROM: Darin Worden, Reclamation Hydrologist *DW*

RE: Grassy Trail Creek Inspection, Sunnyside Reclamation and Salvage, Inc., Sunnyside Mines, ACT/007/007, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

Synopsis

A site inspection of Grassy Trail Creek was completed on June 6, 1989. This memo reviews the inspection.

Analysis

Points along Grassy Trail Creek in which past oil emulsion and coal fine spillage problems occurred were inspected. Please refer to the memo dated April 25, 1989 to Richard V. Smith from Darin Worden, for specific map locations.

UPDES discharge point 002 was still in service. Change of this discharge point and subsequent cleaning of Whitmore Canyon mine water discharge pond has not been completed.

The pond continues to discharge sediment-laden water. All alternative sediment control structures implemented during past events are in need of repair, but appear to still be functioning.

The operator has remained in compliance with UPDES permit limits, but fluctuations in clarity of pond discharge water has been noted (personal communication with Karl Houskeeper, representative for Sunnyside Reclamation and Salvage, Inc. [SRS]).

Many macro invertebrates were observed in Grassy Trail Creek directly below its confluence with the 002 discharge water. The density and diversity of species did diminish downstream as far as the rodeo grounds.

Page 2
Memo to R. V. Smith
ACT/007/007
June 7, 1989

The lower portion of the Grassy Trail Creek continues to house coal fine sediment. The large accumulations behind boulders, in point bars and channel banks still exist. It is becoming more difficult to distinguish these deposits from historical and wind blown deposits.

Due to water shortages, the City of Sunnyside will shut down all flow originating from Grassy Trail Reservoir except in time of need (personal communication with Dick Fox, Mine Consultant for SRS). A date has not been set for this shutdown. Potentially, the mine water will be the only flow in the creek.

Recommendations

1. Wait for final findings from SRS's stream habitat study.
2. Continue to review SRS's data from 002 in order to identify any substantial changes in effluent quality.
3. Continue to push for Whitmore Pond cleaning and the implementation of a second consecutive pond to treat the mine water.

djh
cc: K. Houskeeper, SRS
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AT30/44-45