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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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May 3, 1989

TO: Richard V. Smith, Acting Permit Supervisor

FROM: Darin Worden, Reclamation Hydrologist *DW*

RE: Grassy Trail Creek and Borrow Area Pond Inspections, Kaiser Coal Corporation, Sunnyside Reclamation and Salvage, Sunnyside Mines, ACT/007/007, Folder #2 and #5, Carbon County, Utah

Synopsis

Division personnel Bill Malencik and Darin Worden completed an inspection of Grassy Trail Creek and the Borrow Area sediment pond, April 27, 1989. This inspection further documents Sunnyside's recent environmental problems and checks the progress of:

1. downstream contaminant movement;
2. alternative sediment control structure maintenance; and
3. Borrow Area pond construction.

This memo reviews the inspection.

Analysis

I. Grassy Trail Creek

Conditions existing in Grassy Trail Creek from the recent oil emulsion, coal fine and Whitmore Mine water discharge pond problems have not changed. Following is a description of the problems as they existed on April 27, 1989.

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1. Coal Fines - The large pockets of coal fines still exist. Downstream movement has not occurred. A very thin (1/8 inch) film of natural stream sediment (not black in color) has been deposited over the top of the coal. This improves the visual appearance of the deposits until disturbance occurs. The coal fines are still in place and the relative deposits size has not changed.
2. Whitmore Mine water discharge pond sediment release - No visual improvement over last week's inspection could be made. The pond continues to discharge the black substance. Further downstream contaminant movement has not occurred.

Water samples to further document the environmental problems were taken:

1. above the confluence of Grassy Trail Creek and 002 discharge;
2. below the confluence of Grassy Trail Creek and 002 discharge; and
3. at the permit boundary (GT-4 water monitoring location).

The samples are presently being analyzed for:

1. Total Dissolved Solids,
2. Total Suspended Solids, and
3. Oil and Grease.

The Division is awaiting the results of these analyses.

II. Borrow Area Pond

Construction of the Borrow Area sediment pond has been completed. All sizing, riprap lining and grouting has taken place. The pond was found to be satisfactory by the Division.

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Recommendation

I. Grassy Trail Creek

Inform the operator to check all alternative sediment control structures involved with the Whitmore Mine water discharge pond twice a week. All structures will be maintained so they function properly, without allowing these problems to occur:

1. a large quantity of water pass under or around the structure.
2. Structures are not being overtopped.
3. Structures are not plugged with oil and sediment.

Continue to monitor 002 discharge for TDS, TSS and Oil and Grease twice a week for trend analysis. The operator has been in compliance for UPDES permit 002, but problems continue to exist. These problems continue to degrade any aquatic habitat left in Grassy Trail Creek. This continued degradation will complicate any mitigation or restoration plan.

II. Borrow Area Pond

Finish all documentation for completing the Borrow Area sediment pond.

djh
AT30/23-25