

0031



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

Norman H. Bangerter

Governor

Dee C. Hansen

Executive Director

Dianne R. Nielson, Ph.D.

Division Director

355 West North Temple

3 Triad Center, Suite 350

Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203

801-538-5340

January 16, 1990

File ACT/007/007#2

TO: Pam Grubaugh-Littig, Permit Supervisor

FROM: Bill Malencik, Reclamation Specialist *BM*

RE: Sunnyside Mine Water Discharge

The purpose of this memo is to document observations made concerning the Sunnyside Mine Water discharge. This supplements information submitted previously which included the NOV, inspection report and inspectors statement.

- Sunday 12/17/89 . Karl Housekeeper notified me at home that the Sunnyside No. 1 Mine water was chalky in color indicating the emulsion line may have broken, suspected the emulsion fluid drained into sumps and pumped to the surface mine water ponds.
- . He said they closed the emulsion valve, redirected water to the Whitmore Pond (old pond). The old pond had a flocculant station in place and it was activated.
- Monday 12/18/89 . Discussed emulsion problem with Karl Housekeeper at the mine site. Took water samples at the discharge UPDES stations on both the Old Whitmore Pond and the SSF Pond. At the time of the sample the mine water had been redirected to the new pond, but the old pond was discharging at a reduced rate.
- . Both Whitmore Pond (old) and Grassy Trails were chalky colored. Water in Grassy Trails was iced over except for a 2 foot - 3 foot wide channel approximately the middle of the stream.
 - . Advised the operator that problem observed in the field is a potential violation; however, I wanted to get the sample results and discuss the matter with management at the Division before taking any enforcement action.

- . Discussed problem with DOGM management.
- Tuesday 12/19/89
- . Checked Pole Canyon 002A & 002B UPDES discharge stations. No mine water was being discharged. Mine water was being pumped into the new Whitmore Pond. The pond only appeared to be about 20% full.
 - . New straw filter screens were in place in Pole Canyon adjacent to the discharge pipe.
- Wednesday 12/20/89
- . Received the results of the water sampling for oil and grease taken at the outfall on 12/18/89 as follows:
 - Old Whitmore Pond - 45.9 mg/l
 - SSF Pond -----1.6 mg/l
 - . Issued NOV 89-26-24-1.
- 12/21/89 - 1/5/90
- . Periodically checked discharge and no mine water was being discharged into Grassy Trail Creek.
- Monday 1/8/90
- . Since 12/18/89 No. 1 Mine water is being pumped to the new Whitmore Pond. The old pond is iced over and not discharging. The new pond has not discharged.
 - . The new pond water level is 6'5" from the culvert collar.
 - . The water level has been about a foot higher than the 1/8/90 observation. This being a new pond, this is readily detectable.
 - . Pond is stable, water is somewhat translucent, dark in appearance, coal fines are observable at the pond edges through the water, and no evidence of pond seepage at the embankment. No grease skum was observed.
 - . Checked Grassy Trails from Pole Canyon to GT-3 for seepage. Only one spring or seep was observed on the opposite embankment from the pond (W). It was iced over with no water flowing. Suspect the mine water is seeping into the substratum and not into Grassy Trails Creek.
 - . New threaded pipe had just been received from the vendor. The new pipe together with new supports are being installed by the operator. Work should be completed before the abatement deadline.