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State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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May 17, 1993

To: Lowell P. Braxton, Associate Director, Mining

From: Pamela Grubaugh-Littig, Permit Supervisor *pgl*

Re: Signoff from AML for Removal of Water Canyon Refuse Pile from the Disturbed Area, Sunnyside Coal Company, Sunnyside Mine, ACT/007/007-92D, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

Sunnyside Coal Company (SCC) has proposed to remove the Water Canyon refuse pile from the disturbed area as a prelaw structure. The initial proposal was denied on August 7, 1992 and the permittee resubmitted information on January 25, 1993 that has been reviewed by Jesse Kelley, see attached memo.

Before this amendment can be approved, a letter from AML taking responsibility for the pre-law pile is probably in order, i.e. before the liability is released from Title V the liability should be shifted to Title IV. This pile was included in the disturbed area in the original permit, but has not been reaffected by post law mining, which is the argument of the permittee for releasing the pile from the disturbed area.

I have attached information relative to the amendment for your review. Please let me know how I should proceed with this issue. Thank you.





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April 29, 1993

TO: Pamela Grubaugh-Littig, Permit Supervisor

FROM: Jess Kelley, Reclamation Engineer *JK*

RE: Amendment for Removal of Water Canyon Refuse Pile from Disturbed Area, Sunnyside Coal Company, Sunnyside Mine, ACT/007/007-92D, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

SYNOPSIS

It is the permittee's intention to remove the Water Canyon refuse pile from the disturbed area as a prelaw structure. To this end, on January 25, 1993, the permittee submitted Amendment 92D for Division approval. Exhibit B, "Water Canyon Disturbed Area Boundary Map," shows the disturbed area in Water Canyon as the permittee intends to redefine it.

ANALYSIS

The permittee has divided the history of the Water Canyon refuse pile into four periods. Mining activities which took place during these periods are shown on Exhibit A, "No. 2 Mine Material Extraction History," which the permittee has included as part of the submittal.

The first period was from the early 1920s through 1952. It was during this period that the refuse pile was actually created. Refuse material was removed from the mine by hoist through the Water Canyon portal and placed in the refuse pile. Placement of material in the refuse pile ceased in 1952 when the preparation plant was built.

The second period was from 1952 through August of 1973. During this period, all material from the No. 2 Mine was transported by belt to cars which were hoisted from the mine by the Fan Canyon hoist. The cars were transported underground to the preparation plant, emerging from one portal and entering the



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opposite portal, crossing the trestle across Water Canyon. Refuse material went to the rotary dump at the preparation plant.

The third period was from September of 1973 to 1989. During this period, all material was removed from the mine by belt up the No. 3 slope and went directly to the preparation plant. No refuse was removed through the Water Canyon portals. Management and fire bosses with motors, on their way to inspect the No. 2 Mine, were the only traffic to cross the Water Canyon trestle from portal to portal.

The fourth period was from June to October of 1985, when two small areas of the No. 2 Mine were being worked. Material removed from these areas went by belt down dip to 19th left and up the No. 3 slope to the preparation plant. As in the two previous periods, no refuse material was removed through the Water Canyon portals.

According to the permittee, Water Canyon has seen, since 1973, only occasional surface inspections, occasional cleanout of sediment accumulated beneath the trestle, the capping of fires outside the designated refuse pile area, and occasional use of the trestle and track for transportation of workers and material. The permittee further maintains that the disturbed area markers have been erroneously placed to include the refuse pile. From the material in the submittal, from my conversations with other Division staff members, and from my familiarity with the Water Canyon area, the permittee's chronology appears to be correct. There appears to be no reason why the Water Canyon refuse pile should not be removed from the disturbed area and, thus, from the permittee's reclamation responsibility.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Amendment 92D be approved and that the permittee be allowed to redefine the disturbed area boundary in Water Canyon as shown in Exhibit B of the submittal.

SSWRF.MEM

Application for Permit Amendment

Water Canyon Refuse Area

Sunnyside Coal Company

Permit Act/007/007

Sunnyside Coal Company needs to amend its permit to relocate the boundary of the existing disturbed area of the Water Canyon Refuse Area in the approved PAP. The amendment would correct the boundary of the disturbed area to include only that area which Sunnyside Coal Company has affected and will reclaim. The amendment also addresses the sediment controls for the area.

This permit change should be considered as an amendment since:

1. R614-303-224,100 - There is no increase in surface or sub-surface area. The amendment corrects the disturbed area depicted on the approved plans.
2. R614-303-224,200 - Operations remain within the existing cumulative impact area.
3. R614-303-224,300 - Operations are engaged only in the hydrologic basin authorized in the approved permit.
4. R614-303-224,400 - No division order has been issued for this change.
5. R614-303-224,500 - There has been no cancellation or material reductions of any guarantees of the original permit.
6. R614-303-224,600 - And, no other law or regulation applies to this change application.

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I. General

The Water Canyon Refuse Area requires a permit amendment to address:

- A. Relocation of the erroneously placed field markers to reflect the Disturbed Area Boundary as described in the current existing PAP.
- B. Changing the Disturbed Area Boundary as described in the existing PAP to include only the post-law area disturbed by SCC.
- C. Revising the Sediment Controls for the disturbed area.

Maps and overlays are provided to show the existing disturbed area boundary as described in the approved PAP, versus the field location of the boundary markers. The maps and overlays also show the extent of SCC's actual disturbance of this area compared to the approved PAP disturbance boundary. A mining map showing the last date of mining and extraction of the coal seam materials is also provided, and the history of mining in No. 2 Mine is documented.

The use and justification of alternate sediment control for the area is detailed, and maps showing the location and construction of sediment control structures are included, as is an analysis of the Water Canyon Refuse Pile watershed.

2. Environmental Impacts

This amendment will have the following environmental impacts:

a. Soil Resources

No additional impacts to the soil resources are anticipated.

b. Biological Resources

No additional impacts to the vegetation and wildlife of the permit area are expected.

c. Land Use and Air Quality

The pre-mining and post-mining land use remains the same. The boundary of the land to be reclaimed is the change requested in this application.

No additional impact to cultural or historical resources will be made as there is no anticipated additional disturbance.

No significant change to the air quality within the permit area is anticipated.

d. Geology

The plan for casing and sealing exploration holes and bore holes will remain the same.

Subsidence will not effect the area as no coal seams are below the surface.

e. Hydrology

There will be no additional impacts to the existing hydrological resources. The existing hydrological information and plans in the approved permit will not substantially change.

3. History of No. 2 Mine Refuse Disposal

Coal mining done in the Fan Canyon and Water Canyon Portal areas can be divided into four geographic/time periods. The first period covers the first mining efforts in the early 1920's through 1952, until the preparation plant was completed. During this period, material was removed through the Water Canyon portal by hoist, and refuse material was stored in the Water Canyon refuse pile.

Storage of refuse material from the Water Canyon Portal ceased with the completion of the preparation plant in 1952.

The track from the Water Canyon Portal to the Water Canyon Refuse Pile was removed during a period from 1952 to 1955, disallowing any further use of the Water Canyon Refuse Pile.

The second time period encompasses the time from 1952 through August of 1973, when all material removed from No. 2 Mine was transported by belt to cars which were hoisted from the mine with the Fan Canyon Hoist. The cars were then transported underground to the preparation plant, emerging from one portal and entering the opposite portal, crossing the trestle across Water Canyon. Refuse from this period went to the rotary dump at the prep plant.

After 1973, only management and fire bosses took motors across the Water Canyon Trestle from portal to portal for routine inspections of No. 2 Mine.

The third time period was between September of 1973 and 1989, when all material was removed by belt via the #3 Slope to the preparation plant. No refuse from this period went outside to the Water Canyon Portals, being sent instead to the rotary dump.

The fourth time period occurs between the months of June and October of 1985, when two areas of No. 2 Mine were being mined. These areas are noted on Exhibit A. Material removed from this area went via belt down dip to 19th left and up #3 slope to the prep plant, and no refuse material was removed through the Water Canyon Portals.

The significant time periods are shown on Exhibit A, No. 2 Mine Material Extraction History

4. Operation Plans and Engineering

A. Relocation of Erroneously Placed Field Markers.

The Water Canyon Disturbed Area boundary markers have been erroneously placed in the field to include the pre-law area designated on Exhibit B.

Sunnyside Coal Company needs to relocate the disturbed area boundary markers to reflect the disturbed area boundary as described in the current existing PAP.

B. Change of Disturbed Area Boundary to Include Only Post-Law Disturbance by Sunnyside Coal Company.

As shown in Exhibit B, some of the designated disturbed area within SCC's existing approved permit is pre-law disturbance, and has not been used by SCC.

The refuse site has not been exposed to the opportunity of use for refuse disposal since 1973. No refuse material has been added to the Water Canyon Disturbed Area since 1952.

Aside from the refuse area disturbed by the addition of noncombustible cap material to put out visible fires, the use of other surface area of Water Canyon since 1973 has consisted of minimal periodic surface inspection, occasional clean-out of sediment accumulated beneath the trestle, and the occasional use of the two portals, connecting track, and trestle supporting the track to allow rail runner transportation of people for underground inspections. The removed sediment material has been used for capping the fires.

Sunnyside Coal Company is requesting in this amendment to remove the pre-law disturbed area, which has not been used since the early 1950's, from its permit. The amended permit will include only the area designated as "Proposed Permit Area Boundary" in Exhibit B, which is the area where the fires have been capped. This area is included in the recently submitted reclamation plan for Water Canyon.

C. Sediment Controls for the Disturbed Area

The plan for sediment controls for the Water Canyon disturbed area is revised.

Due to the constricted area within Water Canyon, sediment ponds were never designed as sediment control for the entire Water Canyon Disturbed Area.

The total Water Canyon Disturbed Area is 8.3 acres. The total disturbed area of the refuse disposal area amounts to 4.6 acres. This small area is insignificant when compared to a major disturbance for the construction of a sediment pond.

Best Technology Currently Available has been used in the construction of the Water Canyon Silt Fence (Exhibits D and E) in order to prevent additional contributions of suspended solids and sediment from the disturbed areas comprising Water Canyon Watersheds #1, #2, #3, and #4 (Exhibit C) to stream flow or runoff outside the permit area. The details of silt fence construction are shown in Exhibits D and E, while the placement of the silt fence is shown in Exhibit C. An analysis of the Water Canyon Refuse Pile watershed is provided in Appendix A.

The silt fence is located in the drainage channel for the runoff from the coarse refuse pile and is V-shaped for a total length of 11 feet. The 5-foot leg spans the bottom of the downstream channel to the canyon wall, and the 6-foot leg spans to the road on the other side of the drainage channel. The silt fence, as built, passes both the 25-year, 6-hour and the 10 year, 24 hour precipitation events. (Appendix A).

Sediment control for the remaining disturbed area has been accomplished by the installation of a second silt fence, located in the drainage channel just above the refuse pile. This silt fence is constructed of a wire mesh covered with silt fence material, and is approximately 6' wide and 2' high, spanning the width of the drainage channel.

Runoff from the watersheds, as well as drainage over the road surface above the silt fences, will flow into the diversion ditch and through the silt fences, which will reduce overland flow velocities, reduce runoff volumes, and trap sediment.

4. Reclamation Plans

The reclamation plan has been submitted to the Division for review and approval.

Structure removal and rough grade for reclamation have been accomplished.

As authorized by the Division, removal of the silt fence will be done after the disturbed area has been stabilized and revegetated, in not less than two years after the last augmented seeding.

After removal of the silt fence, the land on which the structure was located will be regraded and revegetated in accordance with the reclamation plan.

4. Bonding

No additional or incremental bonding is required for the amendment. All surface disturbance associated with surface reclamation activities are covered in the existing PAP.