

*BUB*

June 6, 1978

Memo to File:

Re: U.S. Steel  
Wellington Coal Preparation Plant  
Carbon County  
ACT/007/012

This facility was inspected on May 31, 1978 by Brian Buck and Jim Smith from the Division and Mr. Glenn Sides from U.S. Steel.

In general, the operation appears to have no problems relative to erosion or degradation of the hydrologic regime. The plant facilities are located in a relatively flat area southeast of Wellington, Utah adjacent to the Price River. The plant itself is on the south side of the river with the slurry ponds system on the north side of the river. A coarse refuse pile several acres in size lies to the east of the plant and is anticipated to only increase in height, not length or width, from its present size. A diversion ditch to the south of the plant area channels any runoff into a flat vegetated area where it is contained. An elevated railroad bed lies to the north of the plant and separates the plant and refuse pile from the river.

Coal is shipped via train to the preparation plant from U.S. Steel's Geneva Mine and their Colorado mine where it is cleaned and sent to the steel mill in Orem. Coarse waste is hauled to the refuse pile east of the plant with the waste water being piped to a series of three settling ponds across the river. The ponds are separated by dikes with the final pond being clearwater which is piped back to the plant for reuse. The ponds are constructed so that all flow is towards the clearwater pond which has an earth-filled dam just above the Price River. There is also a fine refuse pile adjacent to the slurry ponds.

Some junk piles are located west of the plant but present no problem since the area is flat and well vegetated.

The reclamation plan filed by U.S. Steel calls for grading and covering the refuse piles with soil native to the immediate area and allowing natural revegetation to take place. Revegetation of all disturbed surface areas should be done by U.S. Steel upon termination of the preparation plant operation and not just left to return naturally. A commitment to reclaim the ponds after plant operations are terminated should be made by U.S. Steel, unless there is an alternative use for them.

*JWS*  
JAMES W. SMITH  
RECLAMATION SOILS SPECIALIST

JWS/jt