

January 16, 1979

FILE

Memo to File:

Re: United States Steel
Wellington Preparation Plant
ACT/007/012

The Wellington Preparation Plant, operated by United States Steel was inspected on January 10, 1979 by Larry Damrau of the Office of Surface Mining with Tom Suchoski and Mike Thompson of the Division. Mr. Bill Kirkwood accompanied the regulatory personnel.

The tailings pond area was walked on the following day and Mr. Glen Sides was contacted at the East Carbon City.

Obvious problems occurring at the plant site include the following:

- a. Runoff and sediment control - Runoff occurring above the site is diverted away from the plant area by ditches. This was done in the past to protect the plant. The railroad loading area and waste pile adjacent to the plant probably have the greatest potential for sediment production. Runoff from these two areas is not treated. However, no visual evidence of sediment production in excess of that from the surrounding undisturbed areas was found in previous inspections by the Division.
- b. Topsoil - The topsoil in areas that will be covered by future waste disposal and tailings operations must be stockpiled and protected unless soil tests show that the material has less revegetation potential than the waste material.
- c. Revegetation - The unapproved plan states that topsoil will be brought in to cover the waste and tailings. Natural revegetation will be utilized. The borrowing of soil from undisturbed areas to cover the waste and tailings is inappropriate as is relying on natural revegetation. The plan should delete the concept of borrowing topsoil except in the areas of waste and tailings disposal. Revegetation test plots need to be established to determine the best seed mixture and soil amendments for the waste and tailings material.
- d. Regrading - The ditch north of the tailings pond must be reclaimed upon termination of operations.
- e. Water Monitoring - Groundwater monitoring is probably unnecessary. Monitoring of the Price River is necessary above and below the site. An additional monitoring site is necessary where possible runoff from the railroad loading site and waste pile would enter the river. Mr. Sides contends that runoff does not leave the disturbed area, therefore sediment ponds are unnecessary. The monitoring program would determine if Mr. Side's contention is correct.

K. MICHAEL THOMPSON
ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST

/sp
cc: O.S.M., Denver

KMF



FILE

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Governor

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June 18, 1979

Mr. Larry Damrau
Reclamation Specialist
Region V, OSM
1823 Stout Street
Post Office Building
Denver, Colorado 80202

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

Dear Larry:

Enclosed is a copy of Mr. Paul Watson's response to State and OSM visit to U.S. Steel's operation. Also, enclosed are seven (7) copies for OSM's distribution process.

Hope these are helpful.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Suchoski
Reclamation Hydrologist

Enc. Letters
cc: Glenn Sides, U.S. Steel

TJS/pf