



STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES & ENERGY
Oil, Gas & Mining

Scott M. Matheson, Governor
Temple A. Reynolds, Executive Director
Cleon B. Feight, Division Director

4241 State Office Building • Salt Lake City, UT 84114 • 801-533-5771

March 31, 1982

6367288

REGISTERED RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Paul E. Watson
General Superintendent
U. S. Steel Mining Company, Inc.
P. O. Box 807
East Carbon, Utah 84520

ATTENTION: Mr. Glenn Sides

RE: Drainage Recommendations for
Abatement of NOV N81-3-24-1
Wellington Prep Plant
ACT/007/012
Carbon County, Utah

Dear Mr. Watson:

On March 18, 1982, Division staff members, Tom Portle, Wayne Hedberg and David Darby met with Glenn Sides, Bill Kirkwood and Brent Bowler from U. S. Steel Corporation at the Wellington Preparation Plant.

The purpose of the visit was to discuss and assess on-site drainage patterns and other possible problems concerning contaminated runoff leaving the permit area. This meeting took place in response to NOV #81-3-24-1 issued by Tom Portle which concerned several areas of possible drainage problems as related to runoff from noncoal waste storage areas.

The operator had also requested the meeting to clarify some points of confusion regarding a February 23, 1982, letter which expressed the Division's concerns with U. S. Steel's abatement response.

This letter is not to be construed as an overall approval for all existing hydrologic structures. This will require a detailed technical assessment of the engineering designs and sizing calculations as provided in the Mining and Reclamation Plan for the Wellington property. This in-depth review will be performed concurrently with the review of the remainder of the mine plan permit application, at a date to be determined in the near future.

P20 0367288

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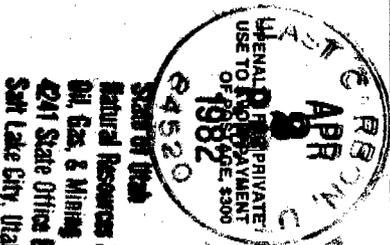
PS Form 3800, Apr. 1976



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7A. EMPLOYER'S INITIALS:	

PS Form 3811, Dec. 1980

As a result of the on-site assessment of the drainage patterns and runoff control structures, the Division has the following recommendations which, upon implementation would provide for adequate abatement compliance pursuant to NOV #81-3-24-1.

1.

- a. In order to minimize the potential for on-site spillage of oil, solvents or other contaminants from leaving the site, and to limit the impact(s) to as small an area as possible, the current settling basin situated just east of the warehouse and oil drum storage area should be fitted with an oil-skimming device prior to overflow entering the drainage ditch along the railroad tracks.
- b. The overflow from the "blow-down" slurry refuse pond should also be fitted with an oil skimming device to minimize the extent of impacted area on- or off-site.

2. The berming which currently exists just north of the settling basins and ponds along the Price River appears to have a number of questionable sections.

The entire length of this "berm" should be substantiated by upgrading its present condition to ensure there will be no breaching into the Price River.

3. There needs to be an improvement in the definition of the interconnection of the outflow channels between the settling ponds. There are several questionable areas where the overflow from a pond flows rather aimlessly from one pond to the next across undisturbed areas.
4. The Division agrees that the current monitoring points located on the Price River, above and below the processing plant, are likely to exhibit negligible impact from the coal processing operations.

Therefore, the following alternative monitoring points are suggested:

- a. Outlet from the settling basin referenced in item (1.a.) of this letter (sample whenever discharge occurs).
- b. Overflow from the settling pond situated at the southeastern extreme of the permit area where natural overland flow and disturbed drainage from the coal refuse pile co-mingle and consequently drain off-site ultimately to the Price River (sample whenever overflow occurs).
- c. Continue current monitoring on the river above the plant site.

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- d. If the current combination of settling basin/sediment pond system is designed to provide "total containment" for all plant discharges and surface runoff, the company should apply for a NPDES "no-discharge" permit from EPA.

This type of permit generally exempts discharges in excess of the 25-year, 24-hour storm. If U. S. Steel cannot demonstrate that the current drainage system is adequate to qualify for this type of exemption, then a monitoring station will need to be established at the point where discharge will exit the last sediment pond. All point source discharges should be covered by a NPDES permit.

Monitoring frequency would be as outlined in the conditions of the NPDES permit, or as determined by the Division according to the standards required by the coal regulatory program.

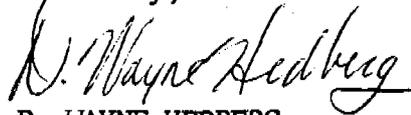
5.

- a. The dregs from the settling basins which were excavated and stockpiled last fall, along the perimeter of these basins, must be removed to the refuse pile as soon as weather conditions permit.
- b. The drainage ditches and associated culverts leading from the primary settling "blow-down" slurry refuse pond, appear to be flowing at near peak capacity. These ditches could use some excavation work to provide for less restricted flow and allow ample freeboard for increased overland flow pursuant to a design storm runoff event.

Please find the enclosed extension and revised attendant deadline relative to NOV #81-3-24-1.

If you have any questions pertaining to these recommendations, please contact the Division at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



D. WAYNE HEDBERG
RECLAMATION HYDROLOGIST

cc: Richard Dawes, OSM, Denver
Tom Emmett, OSM, Albuquerque
Jim Smith, DOGM
Joe Helfrich, DOGM
Tom Portle, DOGM

DWH/btb