



STATE OF UTAH  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

SCOTT M. MATHESON, GOVERNOR

MICHAEL J STAPLEY, M.P.A., ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RECEIVED

MAR 19 1985

DIVISION OF OIL  
GAS & MINING

RE: Wellington Coal Cleaning  
Plant Containment Basin  
Revisions

Glenn H. Sides, General Superintendent  
U.S. Steel Mining Co., Inc.  
P.O. Box AE  
Paonia, Colorado 881428

Dear Mr. Sides:

On February 4, 1985 a request was received from U.S. Steel Mining Co., Inc. for revision of the construction permit issued by this office for the above referenced containment basin modifications.

The general information you provided was helpful in understanding the emergency nature of the containment basin. It is understood that discharge to the basin would be on an infrequent basis and only for cleaning of a plug in the line or for containing any spill should a break occur. Discharge from such a pond is governed by the Wastewater Disposal Regulations for the State of Utah and as such must comply with these standards. In the case of this containment pond the specific regulation that causes concern is in Part I paragraph 1.3.2(b) and is partially quoted below:

The arithmetic mean of SS [suspended solids] values determined on effluent samples collected during any 30-day period shall not exceed 25 mg/l, nor shall the arithmetic mean exceed 35 mg/l during any 7-day period.

It is unclear from the information provided that the pond as designed will be able to comply with this requirement. The effectiveness of the rock and silt fence filter is not clearly demonstrated in the proposal. If this method was effective in reducing the effluent to below 25 mg/l what would be used to prevent plugging or provide for backwashing of the filter?

The type of information that would be acceptable to justify the current design would be:

1. Settling velocity experimentation and calculations demonstrating that 25 mg/l effluent quality can be achieved using maximum pipeline discharge as the pond influent quantity and standard settling velocity calculations based on particle dynamics specific to the Wellington Plant.

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2. Monitoring data and assurance from U.S. Steel that the single discharge when cleaning the pipe is less than the storage capacity of the pond. Also, provisions for discharge of decanted water to the river between line cleanouts.
3. Other information demonstrating acceptable effluent standards can be achieved.

In addition to meeting the State Regulations the discharge must also conform to the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum standards. These standards require that the total dissolved solids loading must be less than one ton per day. This appears to be met but sample calculations should justify this conclusion.

The alternative to the calculations required above would be total containment of all process water discharged as per the permit issued.

If I be of any further assistance please contact me at 533-6146.

Sincerely,



Leland Myers, P.E.  
Environmental Engineer  
Bureau of Water Pollution Control

Jg

cc: Southeastern District Health Department  
Oil, Gas and Mining - D. Wayne Hedberg  
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