

April 19, 1985

TO: Coal File, Inspection and Enforcement File  
FROM: Tom Wright, Mining Field Specialist *TW*  
RE: U.S. Steel Corporation, Wellington Preparation Plant,  
ACT/007/012, Carbon County, Utah

On April 10, 1985 I conducted a partial inspection of the Wellington Preparation Plant. Rick Summers and Dave Hooper, Hydrologist for the Division of Oil Gas and Mining, (DOGM) accompanied me on this inspection. Barbara Filas of U.S. Steel was contacted and toured the facilities with us. The weather was sunny and warm.

Mr. Summers is involved in review of modification of the permit and wished to examine the plant water system and containment ponds. Also an examination of the slurry pond embankments was done to familiarize him with the site.

It appears that all water used in the preparation facilities is contained by the pond system located west of the main rail line or pumped into the slurry ponds east of the Price River. No signs of any drainage or leaks from the facilities on the flats east of the plant were noted.

Additional work has been done by the operator to clean coal fires and sediment from the field ponds on the flats. Material removed from those has been disposed of on the coarse refuse area. These structures no longer are used to contain water from the plant and the culvert under the railroad to route flow to these from the plant has been sealed.

New fabric filter cloth has been installed on the two sediment fences located south of the plant adjacent to the rail line. These fences are for control of disturbed runoff from the material storage area and a portion of the coarse refuse pile.

No flow was noted to the sediment trap for control of flow from any breeches in the slurry lines east of the Price River. According to Ms. Filas, reconstruction of the sediment trap is delayed by concerns of the Department of Health over the proposals. As of this date no further action to remedy this situation has developed.

Page 2

Memorandum - Coal File, Inspection and Enforcement File

ACT/007/012

April 19, 1985

Slurry pond embankments for the ponds appeared stable, however slight slumpage off the upper has occurred in the past. This has not endangered the embankment stability nor decreased the capacity of the structure. No danger of failure can be seen and the amount of material is slight. This area will be examined for any other movement but it appears stable at this time.

eh

cc: Joe Helfrich  
Randy Watts  
Barbara Filas  
Donna Griffin  
Sue Linner

Statistics:

See Tower memo dated April 15, 1985

0164Q-33-34

Page 2  
Memo to File  
ACT/007/012  
April 16, 1985

ponds where gabians had been installed last year and had subsequently failed. This failure was a result of a slurry line plug and the resulting discharge from that line that occurred because of this emergency situation. Ms. Filas pointed out the area that they are proposing to construct a large catch basin to preclude problems of that nature from occurring again. She indicated that she had Division approval for this proposal but was having trouble getting approval from State Health. State Health had concerns about the discharging of salt, directly into the Price River as a result of future pipe line breaks. We then visited the north dike and observed the diversion ditch to the north of the dike. Flow in this dike was minimal and substantially less than last year at this time. There existed no evidence of saturation at the dike or recent slumping as was seen during a site review conducted last spring. Ms. Filas indicated that they will be submitting plans to raise the north dike to the Division in the near future. The diversion ditch under the slurry line which drains to the recently constructed catch basin was in disrepair (silted and blocked in several places). Tom Wright instructed Ms. Filas to repair and clean that ditch as soon as possible.

jvb  
cc: W. Hedberg  
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0176R