



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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INSPECTION REPORT

Partial: _ Complete: X Exploration: _
Inspection Date & Time: March 30, 1998, 10:20 AM to 3:30 PM
Date of Last Inspection: February 25, 1998

Mine Name: Wellington Preparation Plant County: Carbon Permit Number: ACT/007/012
Permittee and/or Operator's Name: Nevada Electric Investment Company (NEICO)
Business Address: c/o Earthco, 1179 East Main #104, Price, Utah 84501
Type of Mining Activity: Underground_ Surface_ Prep. Plant X Other_
State Officials(s): Paul Baker
Company Official(s): Patrick Collins (NEICO); Steve and Ana Traweek (Earthco); Layne Ashton, Roy Benson and Robert Gabbitas (Covol); Karla Knoop (JBR); Mike Herkimer (Division of Water Quality) Federal Official(s): None
Weather Conditions: Cloudy, 40's
Existing Acreage: Permitted- 1720 Disturbed- 356 Regraded- 1.5 Seeded- 1.5 Bonded- 177
Increased/Decreased: Permitted- 0 Disturbed- 0 Regraded- 0 Seeded- 0 Bonded- 0
Status: _Exploration/ X Active/ _Inactive/ _Temporary Cessation/ _Bond Forfeiture
Reclamation (_Phase I/ _Phase II/ _Final Bond Release/ _Liability Year)

REVIEW OF PERMIT, PERFORMANCE STANDARDS & PERMIT CONDITION REQUIREMENTS

Instructions

- 1. Substantiate the elements on this inspection by checking the appropriate performance standard.
a. For complete inspections provide narrative justification for any elements not fully inspected unless element is not appropriate to the site, in which case check N/A.
b. For partial inspections check only the elements evaluated.
2. Document any noncompliance situation by referencing the NOV issued at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
3. Reference any narratives written in conjunction with this inspection at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
4. Provide a brief status report for all pending enforcement actions, permit conditions, Division Orders, and amendments.

Table with 5 columns: Item, EVALUATED, N/A, COMMENTS, NOV/ENF. Rows include items like PERMITS, CHANGE, TRANSFER, RENEWAL, SALE; SIGNS AND MARKERS; TOPSOIL; HYDROLOGIC BALANCE; DIVERSIONS; SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS; etc.

INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

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PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/004

DATE OF INSPECTION: March 30, 1998

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

1. Permits, Change, Transfer, Renewal, Sale

On March 16, 1998, the Division received amendment 98A. This amendment is an interim seed mixture. It was approved March 18 effective March 17, 1998.

4. Hydrologic Balance

a. Diversions

We looked at and discussed the ditches and culverts at the Covol modular preparation plant. Ms. Knoop is preparing as-built designs to show how the drainage control system will meet regulatory standards.

Violation N98-41-2-1 requires the permittee to submit designs showing how process water will be handled with runoff in the drainage control system. This requirement was based on an understanding that it would be necessary to continue to use drainage control structures to handle process water. However, Mr. Gabbitas said the situation should be temporary. The permittee or its resident agent needs to give the Division this information in writing, and this portion of the abatement can be deleted.

There is evidence that some water flowed through the culvert under the Farnham Road from the modular preparation plant area to the ditch on the south side of the slurry pipeline road. It also appeared the ditch was breached about halfway down the road; however, the ditch was repaired. The repair job needs to be redone as there has been a lot of piping in this area. I suggest the soil on the side of the ditch be dug out and compacted as it is replaced. Simply adding rock to the outslope will not work.

Down the hill from the ditch that breached is a silt fence, and it appeared water from the ditch went through the silt fence. Therefore, I did not feel a violation was warranted.

Where the culvert goes under the road, Covol has built a small dam to keep water from going through the culvert. I was told they intend to grade the area so water will flow toward the slurry pond, and they may seek permission from the county to remove the culvert.

b. Sediment Ponds and Impoundments

I checked fourth quarter 1998 pond inspection reports, and only a few minor problems were noted. I forgot to check the weekly inspection reports for the slurry ponds and the clearwater dam, but I will do that in April.

d. Water Monitoring

The site has six permitted UPDES discharge points, and with Mr. Herkimer, we visited all but one of these. The permittee might be able to discontinue some of these as UPDES discharge points, especially the site in the Siaperas Ditch and one or two of those where culverts go under the railroad tracks. In addition, the sampling point for discharge point 005 is where discharge from the plant sediment pond would mix with water from undisturbed areas. This would probably make it very difficult to meet the permit requirements.

13. Revegetation

The lower part of the slope below the flotation cell pad has been gouged, and the entire slope was seeded and covered with an aspen erosion control matting. It would have been better to have gouged the entire slope, but this was not possible.

The erosion control mat was simply stapled at the top and down the hill. Standard procedure is to bury the top of the mat in a trench about six inches deep. As long as the mat stays on the hill and where the plan doesn't show specific installation methods, there is no means for requiring the company to install the mat in this way.

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A small portion of the mat apparently burned after catching fire from a welder's torch. This section needs to be replaced. If there is any remaining seed, it should be applied in this area.

21. Bonding and Insurance

On March 18, 1998, the Division received a rider decreasing the bond from \$6,036,000 to \$4,904,000. The rider was effective February 18, 1998, the same day amendment 971 was approved allowing the bond to be reduced.

Copy of this Report:

Mailed to: James Fulton (OSM), Patrick Collins (NEICO/Mt. Nebo Scientific), Steve Traweek (Earthco)

Given to: Joe Helfrich (DOGM)

Inspector's Signature:  Paul B. Baker #41 Date: March 31, 1998