



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

Michael O. Leavitt
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August 29, 2000

To: Internal Files

Thru: Pam Grubaugh-Littig, Acting Associate Director *pgl*

From: Stephen J. Demczak, Sr. Reclamation Specialist *SJD for pgl*
Wm. J. Malencik, Sr. Reclamation Specialist *WJM for pgl*

Re: Citizen's Complaint, Siaperas, NEICO, Wellington Preparation Plant.
ACT/007/012

Other Attendees: Nick Siaperas

Date & Time: Saturday, August 19, 2000 / 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

PURPOSE:

Nick Siaperas accompanied us on an inspection of his property in the town of Wellington in response to a verbal citizen complaint by him to Lowell Braxton on August 10, 2000.

Jeff Dean, Section Manager at Division of Air Quality, has been working on this air quality issue since last spring. In June, the Division of Air Quality and NEICO, (permittee for the Wellington Preparation Plant) installed a measuring device at Mr. Siaperas' home as well as a background sampler next to the county road, adjacent to the Covol Prep Plant, within the Wellington Preparation Plant disturbed area. On July 4, 2000, NEICO had the slurry ponds at the Wellington Preparation Plant sprayed with a surfactant to reduce fugitive dust.

Citizen's Complaint:

The written citizen complaint submitted to the Division on August 19, 2000 states:

"I, Nick Siaperas, do hereby submit this letter as my formal complaint to the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining for fugitive dust problem at the NEICO site in Wellington, UT, Permit ACT/007/012 our property and homes are being subjected to large amounts of dust being deposited on our property. NEICO has failed to control the problem, I therefore ask for your Division's assistance in this matter." (See attached.)

The citizen complaint refers to fugitive dust. It was our impression during this inspection that Mr. Siaperas was referring specifically to "coal dust."

OBSERVATIONS:

The citizen's property lies about 2000 feet north of the permitted wash plant and approximately 500 feet south of Highway 50 and 6 as shown on the attached map. We inspected the Siaperas' fields and house exterior.



Photo 1. Small patches of blackish gray material were observed.

There were several small patches of blackish gray material in the field. We brushed away the upper soil layer (up to about 1/2") in these patches and found blackish gray material. (See photo 1.) The blackish gray material diminished as we moved from the Wellington Preparation Plant slurry ponds over the Siaperas fields to his home. We could not determine if the material on Mr. Siaperas' land was coal. Mr. Siaperas suggested that several storms have come through the area and the coal dust may have dissipated into the soil or blown away.

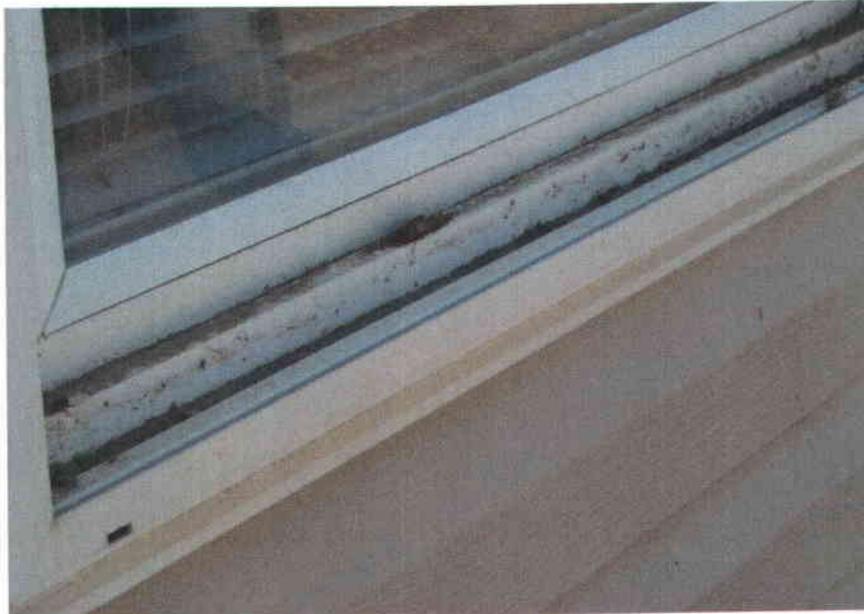


Photo 2. Photo of Siaperas home window sills showing blackish gray and brown dust.

Mr. Siaperas complained of the dust in his house. He showed us the exterior window sills (See Photo 2). We saw blackish gray and brown material on the window sills.

RECOMMENDATIONS/CONCLUSIONS:

We saw blackish gray and brown material in the field and window sills. The grayish/blackened material diminished as we moved from the Wellington Preparation Plant slurry ponds over the Siaperas fields to his home. No violation of the Coal Regulatory Program could be concluded from this inspection.

sd
cc: Citizen Complaint File-2000
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Incoming A-007/012

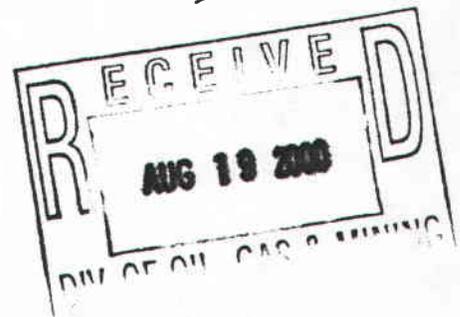
Dear Mr. Lou Braxton:

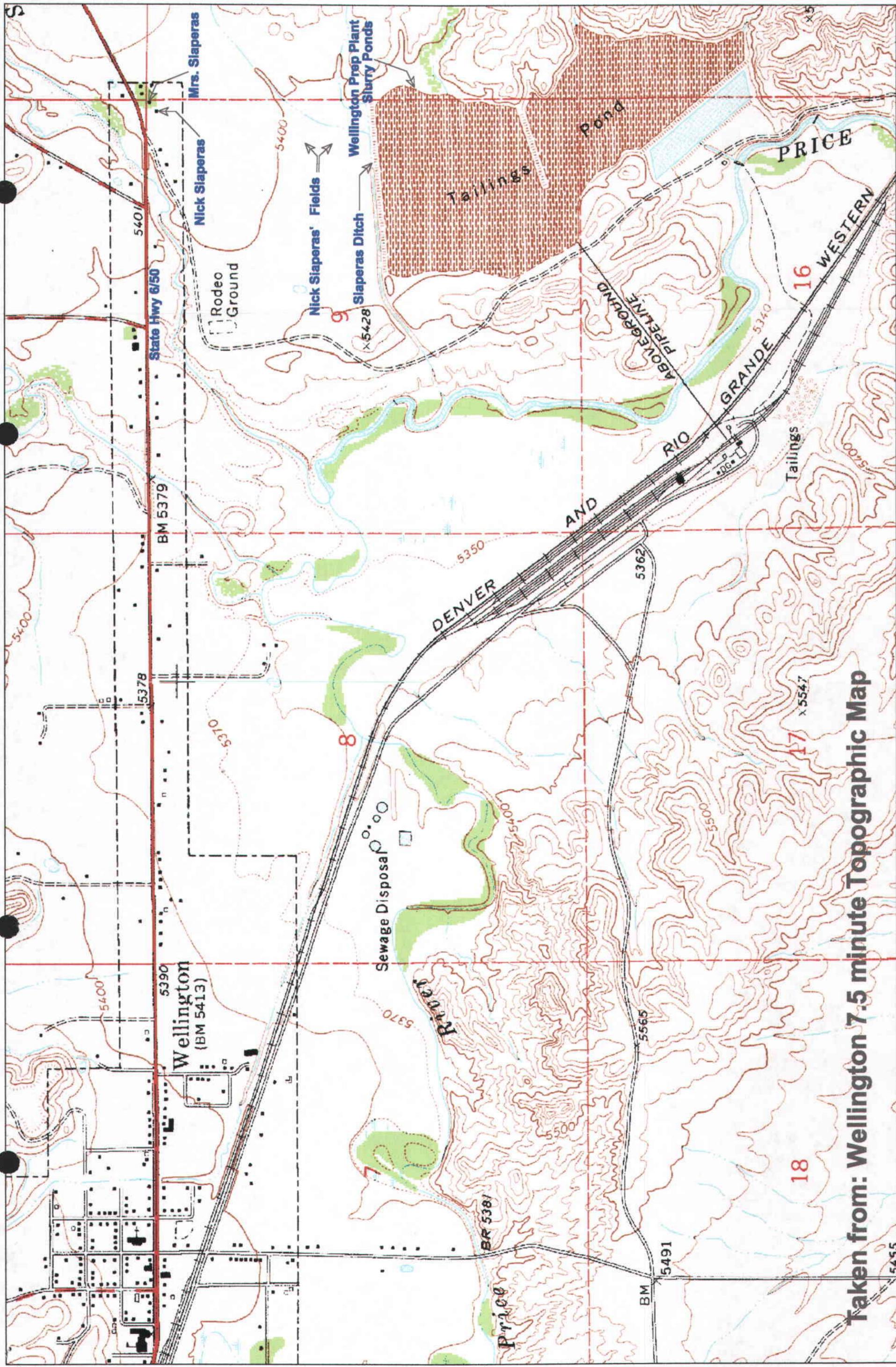
8-18-200

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Nick Siaperas





Taken from: Wellington 7.5 minute Topographic Map