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United States Department of the Interior  
OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING  
Reclamation and Enforcement  
[REDACTED]  
DENVER, COLORADO 80202

Brooks Towers  
1020-15th Street

*Jill Copy*  
*Swisher Coal*  
*Gordon Creek*  
*#2*

December 27, 1979

Ron Daniels/Coordinator of Mine Land Division  
State of Utah  
Division of Oil and Gas  
Dept. of Natural Resources  
1588 N. West Temple  
Salt Lake City, Ut. 84116

Dear Ron:

Enclosed please find copies of on-site inspection reports. The inspections were conducted within the State of Utah during the period of November 8, 1979.

If you have any questions or problems, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

Murray T. Smith  
Chief, Division of Inspection & Enforcement

**RECEIVED**

DEC 31 1979

DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS & MINING

REGION V ON-SITE INSPECTION REPORT  
SWISHER COAL COMPANY  
GORDON CREEK #2  
1109 SOUTH CARBON AVENUE  
PRICE, UTAH 84501  
801-637-5050

DATE: November 8, 1979  
TIME: 9:45 a.m.  
WEATHER: Cool and clear with light snow flurries  
COUNTY AND STATE: Carbon County, Utah  
COMPANY OFFICIAL: Dan Guy, Mine Engineer  
STATE OFFICIALS: Jim Smith, Doug Stewart  
OSM OFFICIALS: Jim Dederick, Hydrologist, TAAR  
Eileen Doherty, Inspector  
MSHA ID NUMBER: 42-00125  
NOV'S ISSUED: None

GENERAL COMMENTS

The mine office is located in Price, Utah. The mine is located in Bryner Canyon. On May 11, 1978, The Utah Oil, Gas, and Mining Division issued an updated authorization to operate to all Utah mines. The Gordon Creek #2 authorization number is ACT/007/016. This mine started operating in 1969. Surface disturbances are located in Sec. 18, T13S, R8E. Surface ownership is private. Mineral rights are Federal and private. Federal lease Numbers are U-8319 and U-8319-1. Weekly production is 2000 tons.

This mine has been operating under a plan approved by CFR 211. On November 6, 1979, an updated mine plan was submitted to Utah State. On November 9, 1979, Mr. Guy personally delivered a copy of this update to OSM, in Denver.

Coal is trucked to the cleaning plant and loadout at Swisher Coal's C-V Spur. Coal was being produced and hauled at the time of this inspection.

COMPLIANCE WITH INTERIM REGULATIONS

717.11 General Obligations

Authorizations to operate as stated under "General Comments" were viewed at the mine office. The plan update submitted to OSM and the State was reviewed. The disturbed surface area totals 9.18 acres.

717.12 Signs and Markers

The required mine identification sign was posted.

717.14 Backfilling and Grading

No backfilling has occurred to date. Material excavated for diversion ditch construction has been used to build a safety berm between the access/haulroad and an ephemeral tributary to Gordon Creek.

SWISHER COAL COMPANY/GORDON CREEK #2

717.14 Backfilling and Grading (Continued)

The surface facilities are built on a pad of material which was placed directly in Bryner Canyon at the outset of this operation. Two ephemeral tributaries were covered. This will be discussed in Section 717.17.

Some grading has taken place toward the implementation of a surface runoff control plan. It has not yet been completed.

717.15 Disposal of Excess Rock and Earth Materials

No excess material is removed from underground.

Mr. Guy stated that a solid waste disposal dump will be located directly above the sediment pond. Waste storage will be short term prior to being hauled off-site. We discussed the fact that if any plans were to develop for a permanent disposal, the State Health Department would have to be contacted.

717.17 Protection of the Hydrologic System

NPDES permit number UT-0023124 expires June 30, 1982.

Beaver Creek and Gordon Creek are two perennial creeks effected by this mine. Beaver Creek flows NW to SE over mine workings from the early 1970's. Gordon Creek is SE of the portal and surface facilities site. Gordon Creek receives flows from the two ephemeral tributaries which were covered by the facilities pad.

The State has ordered the operator to open the two covered drainages beneath the work pad. During this inspection, a 24 inch culvert was being buried to carry the west tributary under the pad and into the south tributary. A temporary ditch is under construction to pass the south tributary along the east edge of the site. Completion of the ditch and grading and riprapping at the point where the ditch falls off the pad edge, is in progress.

Below the east side of the work pad, where the tributary will flow from the diversion ditch, a course needs to be cleaned of debris from berm construction activities. A drainage course should be defined.

A 2.35 acre foot sediment pond is now under construction and will be a retention basin with an emergency spillway. Ditches will divert any surface runoff to the pond. There was a small ditch directing any surface flow which may occur from the coal stockpile area to the pond excavation.

SWISHER COAL COMPANY/GORDON CREEK #2

717.17 Protection of the Hydrologic System (Continued)

The berm along the access/haulroad will be completed this fall.

No excess ground-water has been encountered. Groundwater encountered is used in the workings. There is a ground-water monitoring plan to be used if enough is found to monitor.

According to the mine plan update, Total Suspended Solids limits of 25 mg/l average, 30 mg/l maximum, will be adhered to in surface water monitoring. I believe that these are EPA limits. OSM limits are 30 mg/l average, 45 mg/l maximum. Figures stated in the mine plan will be enforced as approved.

Water for dust suppression is trucked from Gordon #3 mine.

The access/haulroad is State owned and maintained by Swisher Coal Company.

717.20 Topsoil and Revegetation

According to a November 1977 USGS Environmental Analysis, topsoil depth in Bryner Canyon ranges from 6 inches to 6 feet.

Road banks, berms, and any inactive disturbed areas are scheduled for seeding this fall.

SUMMARY

(8-16-79) - State: Disturbed areas will be seeded this fall.  
Unblock two (2) ephemeral drainages.  
Complete surface runoff control measures, including diversion ditches and sediment pond.

*Thomas E. Elmer*

*For*

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EILEEN M. DOHERTY  
RECLAMATION SPECIALIST