



United States Department of the Interior  
 OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING  
 Reclamation and Enforcement  
 BROOKS TOWERS  
 1020 15TH STREET  
 DENVER, COLORADO 80202

~~John White~~  
 John Whitekerb

Act/007/016

RECEIVED  
 APR 06 1987

April 2, 1987

DIVISION OF  
 OIL, GAS & MINING

Mr. Lowell Braxton, Administrator  
 Mineral Resource Development and Reclamation Program  
 Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
 355 West North Temple  
 3 Triad Center, Suite 350  
 Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203

Dear Mr. <sup>Lowell</sup> Braxton:

The Federal Programs Division (FPD) has received the enclosed mid-term review comments from our Albuquerque Field Office (AFO). Their comments reflect a review of the inspection and enforcement record for the Gordon Creek No. 2 and No. 7 mines.

AFO's mid-term review comments for Special Federal Conditions Nos. 5, 10, and 11 are consistent with FPD's comments transmitted to Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining by letter dated March 10, 1987.

AFO has reported that mass movement has been reported by Utah DOGM inspectors. This situation differs from that expressed for Condition No. 7 in FPD's March 10, 1987, letter. Utah DOGM is asked to describe how this problem was or will be addressed.

AFO questions the adequacy of monitoring being done on Beaver Creek. FPD's March 10, 1987, mid-term review letter assumed, in evaluation of Stipulation No. 3, that mine inflows greater than 1 gpm have not occurred since the required monitoring data was not submitted. Utah DOGM is asked to clarify the approved monitoring program being implemented for this area and to inform FPD about mine inflows currently being observed on-site. If freezing weather conditions are responsible for problems experienced with continuous recording devices, please explain and present alternatives.

Any other Federal agency comments received will also be forwarded to your office. Please contact Vernon Maldonado or Richard Holbrook at 844-2451 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Ranvir Singh  
 Ranvir Singh, Chief  
 Federal Lands Branch

Enclosure

cc: AFO - Bob Hagen  
 1409M

~~John Whitekerb~~  
 John: let's discuss  
 these concerns and those  
 in the enclosure - done  
 week of 4-13  
 4-13  
 4-8



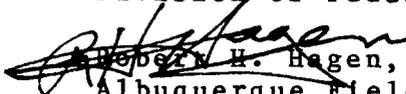
United States Department of the Interior  
OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING  
RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT  
219 CENTRAL AVENUE, NW  
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87102

MAR 24 1987

MAR 23 1987

Memorandum

TO: Allen D. Klein, Acting Chief  
Division of Federal Programs

FROM:  Robert H. Hagen, Director  
Albuquerque Field Office

SUBJECT: Midterm Review of Gordon Creek Nos. 2 and 7

In response to a memo dated February 20, 1985, from Richard Holbrook, requesting assistance for a midterm permit review of the Beaver Creek Coal Company's Gordon Creek Nos. 2 and 7 Mines, the Albuquerque Field Office (AFO) has conducted a thorough review of the inspection file. Results of the review indicate that the permittee is generally in compliance with his approved mine reclamation plan (MRP), but the permittee has not properly implemented several permitting requirements or special conditions required when the permit was issued in August 1984.

Recent inspections conducted by the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOG M) indicate that the continuous recording gauging stations on Beaver Creek have not been operational for many months each year. This monitoring is required as part of the mitigation measures to allow Beaver Creek Coal Company (BCCC) to conduct mining beneath Beaver Creek. The AFO requests that the continuous monitoring program be reviewed to determine whether operation of the gauging stations must be done during winter months to achieve an adequate record of stream quantity and quality through 1994 as required by DOGM.

Mass movement has been noted by DOGM inspectors above Portal No. 7. Apparently, the movement has occurred in the fore part of 1987. Special Condition No. 7 requires BCCC to notify DOGM of the problem and submit mitigation plans within 30 days of their notice. Plans have apparently not been submitted to date by BCCC.

Mr. Allen Klein

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Several other Special Conditions of the permit issued in August 1984 apparently have not been addressed to date by BCCC. Special Condition No. 5 required the permittee to establish riparian areas at the adjacent Gordon Creek No. 3 Mine to compensate for the loss of wildlife habitat at Gordon Creek No. 2 Mine. This wildlife mitigation plan has not been properly implemented because only a small plot on Gordon Creek No. 3 has been developed. The AFO requests that the wildlife mitigation plan be evaluated to establish the need for full implementation of the plan.

Special Condition No. 10 concerns alteration of existing power poles to comply with raptor-proof design standards specified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The permittee may not have complied with this condition. The AFO requests that the present power line be evaluated to determine its adherence to the raptor-proof design standards.

Special Condition No. 11 requires the permittee to survey the proposed mine site for canyon sweet-vetch. Apparently, the survey was never conducted. The AFO requests that an evaluation of this condition be done to determine if there still is a need to conduct the survey at this late date.

The AFO requests that a field review to Gordon Creek Nos. 2 and 7 Mines be jointly conducted by the Technical Assistance Division, the AFO, and the DOGM permitting personnel in April 1987 to reach a consensus on methods to gain compliance with the MRP in order to avoid enforcement problems with the existing MRP. It is suggested that the field reviews for Castle Gate-Price River and Price River-Willow Creek be conducted at this time also.

Please contact John C. Kathmann at FTS 474-6515 to arrange the site visit.

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