



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

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April 22, 1999

TO: File

THRU: Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor *DH*

FROM: Sharon Falvey, Senior Reclamation Specialist *SKE*

RE: Midterm Review, Horizon Coal Company, LLC, Horizon Mine, ACT/007/020-MT99, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah.

**SYNOPSIS:**

This memo serves to meet midterm requirements as identified in the letter to Horizon Coal Company dated March 23, 1999. This portion of the TA specifically addresses items 2, 3, and 4 in that letter, and those items are repeated below.

2. A review of the plan to ensure that the requirements of all permit conditions, division orders, notice of violation abatement plans, and permittee-initiated plan changes are appropriately incorporated into the plan document. Especially important in light of the February 25, 1999 Order dealing with coal mine waste disposal.
3. A review of the applicable portions of the permit to ensure that the plan contains commitments for application of the best technology currently available (BTCA) to prevent additional contributions of suspended solids to stream flows outside of the permit area.
4. The Division will conduct a technical site visit in conjunction with the assigned compliance inspector to document the status and effectiveness of operational, reclamation, and contemporaneous reclamation practices.

From this review it was determined that site conditions do not match information provided in the permit. The sedimentation pond (BTCA) is not designed to handle the current minesite conditions however, no evidence of offsite impact was visually observed. It is possible that no runoff event smaller than the 10 year- 24 hour event has occurred on site while the pond has discharged at full capacity. Therefore, the current practices as BTCA can not specifically be determined.

**ANALYSES:**

**2. Plan Meets Permit Terms and Conditions.**

The permit has no attached stipulations. Conditions relating to hydrology under Sec. 14 states the permittee shall comply with the provisions for the Water Pollution Control Act (33 USC 1151 et seq.)

**Water Quality Standards and Effluent Limitations.**

The permittee provided a copy of the UPDES permit for the Horizon Coal Corporation in appendix 3-6. The permit is expired at midnight on April 30, 1998. The permit number UTG040019 is authorized for discharge at outfall 001, latitude 39°41'37" and longitude 111°02'58", to the North Fork of Gordon Creek.

The plan states excess underground water encountered is settled in underground sumps and discharges will be monitored to ensure that effluent limitations are met. Any such discharges will be monitored in accordance with the UPDES permit (Sections 3.4.3 and 3.4.3.2). The permit, currently allows only one discharge point from the sedimentation pond. The permittee has attempted to obtain an additional mine water discharge point. The total amount of TDS discharged from all mine water and decant operations is limited to one ton per day. To date, the applicant has not obtained a mine water discharge UPDES permit.

Conditions relating to hydrology under Sec. 10 states the permittee shall conduct operations in accordance with the terms of the permit. Based on the discussion presented under item # 3, the operator is not following the provisions of the permit.

**3. Ensure plan contains commitments for BTCA to prevent additional contribution of suspended solids to stream flow outside the permit area.**

As a temporary measure the applicant was allowed to discharge water from the mine through the sedimentation pond. Currently, the permittee has not provided any adjustments to the pond design that allows for retaining the minewater runoff. The permittee needs to retain capacity for the calculated pond runoff from a 10-year, 24-hour precipitation event, 0.56 acre-feet in the pond above the sediment storage capacity so it can contain the runoff from a precipitation event. Areas adjacent to the disturbed area have been re-graded and change the pre-approved plan. Now additional adjacent areas contribute runoff to the sedimentation pond. These areas are not accounted for in the sedimentation pond design. Similarly, the sedimentation pond spillway is not shown to safely pass the peak flow with the additional minewater discharge. At the time of the site inspection associated with this review no runoff storage capacity was available in the pond.

Coal/coal waste accumulations are being air transported out of the disturbed area upstream of the bypass culvert on the North Fork of Gordon Creek (Jewkes Creek). Bill Malencik has previously informed the operator that methods should be employed to eliminate coal/coal waste transport into the disturbed area.

### **Hydrocarbons**

Horizon Coal Company indicates diesel fuel, oils, greases and hydrocarbon products will be stored above-ground and may be spilled in the mine and on the surface during mining operations. An above ground 5,000 gallon diesel fuel tank will be located between the coal stockpile and the truck turn around, as indicated on Plate 3-1. The area where these were located according to the reviewed map differs with the site location. The site location is directly adjacent to the drainage carrying minewater which reports to the sedimentation pond. The diesel fuel tank should be moved away from the ditch that drains directly to the sediment pond.

#### **4. Status and Effectiveness of Operational Practices**

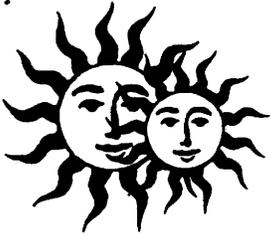
The site showed no visible evidence of contributions of sediment to streamflow outside the permit area other than the Coal/coal waste accumulations are being air transported out of the disturbed area upstream of the bypass culvert on the North Fork of Gordon Creek (Jewkes Creek).

The straw bales in the disturbed area below the sedimentation pond were decomposing. The straw bales in the disturbed area below the sedimentation pond need to be replaced as vegetation is not adequate to control erosion at this time. No visible signs of precipitation or sediment moving from this area were noted.

### **Findings:**

The operations are not considered adequate to meet the requirements identified for the midterm. The permittee must provide the following in accordance with:

**R645-300-142.** "The permittee will conduct all coal mining and reclamation operations only as described in the approved application."



## Sunnyside Cogeneration Associates

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April 22, 1999

Bill Malencik, Reclamation Specialist  
DIVISION OF OIL GAS & MINING  
College of Eastern Utah  
451 East 400 North  
Price, Utah 84501

RE: Horizon Waste Coal Pile

Dear Mr. Malencik:

This is in response to your letter dated April 12, 1999, regarding the Horizon "Pile". In your letter you asked whether SCA is still interested in the Horizon "Pile". Yes, SCA is still interested, and is currently communicating with Horizon Coal Co. on this matter.

Bill, thank you for sharing the most recent analytical results with SCA, pertaining to the Horizon "Pile".

If any additional information is needed please contact me at (435)888-4476.

Thank You,  
Sunnyside Operations Associates

*Rusty Netz*

Rusty Netz  
Environmental Coordinator

cc: Gordon Strom, COSI  
Plant File

*ACT/007/020 #2*

*ACT/007/035 #2*