

December 24, 1981

Inspection Memo
to Coal File:

RE: Blazon Company
Blazon Mine
ACT/007/021
Carbon County, Utah

DATE: December 3, 1981
TIME: 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
WEATHER: Warm and Clear
COMPANY OFFICIAL: Kirk Harvey
STATE OFFICIALS: Ken Wyatt, Tom Portle

Compliance with Permanent Performance Standards

771 et al Permits

Final approval letter was available on-site for inspection. NPDES #UT-0023647 was available for inspection. Timely application had been made. Blazon is awaiting an EPA response. NPDES permits were reviewed and no discharge was recorded. New developments and stipulations concerned with the Blazon mine plan are both concerned with waste disposal. Those issued in 5-81-1 and were reviewed and those issued according to the December 1, 1981, have been recently received.

5-81-1

In regard to Stipulation 5-81-1, the applicant has submitted toxicity reports.

5-81-2

Applicant has segregated topsoil.

5-81-3

This involves final reclamation of the fill and should be checked on the next inspection since the fill is complete and approval for the Clear Creek strip pit has been issued.

5-81-4 and 5-81-5

A variance to these stipulations was subsequently requested and granted.

5-81-6

Blazon has installed an eight inch CMP culvert.

5-81-7

All of the five items in 5-81-7 have been addressed with the exception of revegetation, since this area has yet to be reclaimed.

5-81-8

The applicant will conduct this work following completion of the fill.

5-81-9

Mr. Harvey did not know if this had been addressed. This should be checked in the office files.

5-81-10

Plans had not been submitted but a violation (81-2-9-1) required their submittal. This violation was terminated upon submittal of plans.

5-81-11

It appeared that all maintenance was being conducted adequately at the time of the inspection.

With regard to the Clear Creek stip pit stipulation, 11-81-2 should be addressed. It requires a submittal of plans and should be addressed prior to March 1, 1982. 11-81-3 should be addressed prior to April 1, 1982. 11-81-4 should be addressed by January 1, 1982. This stipulation involves the placement of perimeter markers. However, if any waste is at the site generated by Blazon, a violation is in order since perimeter markers should have been placed prior to depositing any waste. A proviso requiring the applicant to provide plans by April 1 dealing with a 10-year, 24-hour precip event and spillway designed to safely pass a 25-year, 24-hour event should be closely monitored. By April 1, 1982, the applicant must submit an appropriate revegetation plan for the fill.

817.11 Signs and Markers

All signs were placed as required, were visible and adequate for their intended purpose.

817.21-.25 Topsoil

Topsoil associated with the waste fill has been seeded with Strawberry clover, intermediate wheatgrass and climax timothy. Topsoil along the Class III road has yet to be seeded. Mr. Harvey was informed this should be done immediately to allow for maximum potential for revegetation of this material. Topsoil in all areas appeared to be stable and the only problem would be protection from wind erosion which will be remedied by 817.41-.52. In general all sediment control structures appeared to be working as intended. Some concerns outlined in an October 9, 1981, memo were addressed, but it was difficult to ascertain if the required work had been done due to the snow on the ground. Some of this work involved repairing gullies and berms. In general, all structures seem to be working as intended. A culvert has been extended down from the upper pad to carry runoff from where it ponds on this pad down the slope and into the ditch system. This work has not yet been completed.

817.52 Surface and Ground Water Monitoring

At this time, the operator was able to produce a map depicting surface water monitoring locations. Sample points 3, 4 and 5 are located above the mining activity, while points 1, 2 and 6 are located below the mine. On May 27, 1981, a high TSS (440 ppm) reading occurred at point 1 which was below the mine. In subsequent months, this problem was not repeated. Ground water is sampled in the old Clear Creek Mine. No ground water data were viewed at this time.

The operator was unable to explain why flow was greater above the mine than below the mine at point 3.

817.71-.73 Disposal of Underground Development Waste and Excess Spoil

Some underground waste appeared to be disposed of improperly at the time of the inspection. In light of the permitting constraints and larger amount of waste disposal area anticipated, this was not thought to be a problem. On December 1 (see Permits 771 et al) this was further discussed. Since approval had been granted, it is felt that these problems will be taken care of in due course.

817.89 Noncoal Waste

Trash collection boxes had been installed to handle noncoal waste.

817.111-.114 Revegetation

All eastern slopes were hand broadcast with a mixture of strawberry, clover, intermediate wheatgrass and climax timothy in late October. The previously mentioned topsoil stockpile located along Class III road should also be seeded with this mixture.

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817.150-.176 Roads

Maintenance problems are again in existence at the Class III road that leads to the substation and waste fill. Electrical problems on the minesite have created a situation in which utility vehicles used this road resulting in its poor condition. Also, it has been used to gain access to the overtaxed waste fill. It is assumed that utilization of the Clear Creek strip pit and further operator cognizance will prevent a reoccurrence of maintenance problems on this road. Inspectors will be inclined to issue a violation if this road is not properly maintained during the next inspection.

THOMAS L. PORTLE *TLP*
RECLAMATION SOILS SPECIALIST

cc: Tom Ehmett, OSM
Inspection Staff
Kirk Harvey, Blazon

TLP/btb

Statistics:

Vehicle: #EX 68805--487 miles
Per Diem: 2 persons X 1 day, 12.5 hours @ \$37.50/day = \$107.56
Grant: A & E