

November 25, 1981

ACT/007/021

Memo to Coal File:

RE: Blazon Company's Request to  
Deposit Rock Waste in the  
Clear Creek Strip Pit

Following receipt of a request from Kirk Harvey of the Blazon Company for permission to deposit mine rock waste in the Clear Creek strip pit, Gilbert Hunt, Mary Bosworth and Everett Hooper, of the Division's staff visited the site on November 6, 1981. Accompanied by Mr. Harvey the staff made the following observations:

The Clear Creek strip pit is approximately 150 feet wide, 1500 feet long with an existing highwall of 110 feet. Blazon Company proposes to use the southern most quarter portion of the pit, it looked as though someone had recently been using this part of the pit for waste disposal. This area is currently acting as a large retention pond containing direct precipitation. There are no seeps or springs in or near the pit and no natural drainage runs through it. A drainage on the northern side of the pit has been blocked by topsoil pushed into it. Blazon proposes to construct a berm around the perimeter of the proposed storage area to contain leachate waters and prevent runoff from the area.

The applicant proposes to place the fill material with regards to maintaining stability. The fill will be compacted in four foot lifts and graded to a final slope of not more than 30 degrees. All fill will be located within the solid perimeters of the bench. The fill will be inspected for stability by a registered engineer at least quarterly throughout placement and compaction of fill materials.

The material the applicant proposes to dispose at the pit is basically the same as that which was removed, i.e. sandstone, shale and small amounts of coal. The exposed seam is near the bottom of the highwall and will be covered by the fill in the area Blazon wants to use. The spoil material present on site is not enough to cover the entire highwall thus, any contribution of nonacid, nontoxic-forming, stable, fill material would be beneficial towards final reclamation of the Clear Creek Strip Pit.

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The use of this pit for waste disposal brings forth two questions concerning reclamation. One, does Blazon become responsible for reclamation of the entire abandoned mine? Two, does the abandoned mine then become ineligible for Title IV reclamation monies? A letter posing these questions was addressed to Mr. Richard Harris, Director of the Office of Surface Mining, November 13, 1981. The Division awaits a response to this letter before moving further on the issue.

GILBERT L. HUNT   
RECLAMATION HYDROLOGIST

GLH/te

cc: O.S.M.

Statistics:

Vehicle #EX68804  
Miles - 288  
Grant: A&E