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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
Reclamation and Enforcement
POST OFFICE BLDG. RM. 270
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December 4, 1979

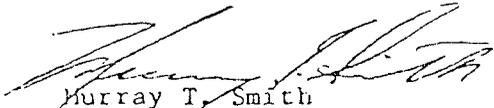
Mr. Ron Daniels /Coord. /Mined Lands
State of Utah
Div. of Oil and Gas
Dept./Nat. Res.
1588 N. West Temple
SLC, Ut. 84116

Dear Ron:

Enclosed please find copies of on-site inspection reports. The inspections were conducted within the State of Utah during the period of September 19, 20th, 1979.

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

Sincerely,


Murray T. Smith
Federal Lands Coordinator

REGION V ON-SITE INSPECTION REPORT

SWISHER COAL COMPANY
CASTLE VALLEY SPUR COAL PREPARATION PLANT
P.O. BOX AU
PRICE, UTAH 84501

DATE/TIME: September 19, 1979, 1:30 p.m.
September 20, 1979, 8:15 a.m.
WEATHER: Warm and Clear
COUNTY & STATE: Carbon County, Utah
COMPANY OFFICIAL: Dan Guy
STATE OFFICIALS: Jim Smith, Joe Helfrich and Doug Stewart
OSM OFFICIAL: Gary Fritz
MSHA ID NUMBER: 42-01444
NOV NUMBER: 79-5-5-29
STATE PERMIT NO: None

GENERAL COMMENTS

This new coal preparation plant is located on 160 acres of land about seven miles southeast of the city of Price, Utah, off U.S. Highway #6. The area is flat on the western and eastern sides with a small ridge connecting two portions. Sagebrush is the only thing growing on the site.

The company uses trucks to haul coal from nearby mines to a horseshoe shaped dump ramp; at the ramp, the coal is dumped into a crusher which empties into a stacking tube. Coal is then moved from there through three tunnels to the washing, sizing, and cleaning unit which, in turn, conveys the graded and dried product to two other stackers. From these stackers, coal not sold locally is carried by conveyor to a silo loadout facility built over their railroad spur.

Swisher has no outstanding violations from the Division of Oil Gas and Mining.

COMPLIANCE WITH INTERIM REGULATIONS

717.11 General Obligations

The operator does not have an approved State of Utah mining plan. Dan Guy said that he had been talking to the State about the plan and had prepared a rough draft for finalization, but the company did not submit the plan for approval. NOV 79-5-5-29 was issued for this infraction. The company prepared a final mining plan draft the following day.

717.15 Disposal of Excess Rock and Earth Materials on Surface Areas

The preparation plant has a 60,000 ton per month capacity for processing coal. Refuse from the plant is hauled by truck to three separate dumping sites located in close proximity to each other at the plant. According to Dan Guy, because of the moisture content of the refuse, three alternate sites are necessary. The refuse does not dry fast enough to allow the company to drive over the same pile continuously.

SWISHER COAL/CV SPUR COAL PREP. PLANT

717.15 Disposal of Excess Rock and (Continued)
Earth Materials on Surface Areas

Topsoil and B Horizon has been removed ahead of the refuse disposal and stockpiled for later redistribution. Some topsoil was almost buried at several places on the perimeter of the refuse piles, so the operator was told to pull it back. I suggested using stakes around the perimeter of the topsoil limits so it would not be buried in the winter. New truck operators would also know the limits of disposal area without close supervision by the limited supervisory staff at the plant. The refuse was less than two feet thick on the three areas. A registered engineer, or other qualified professional specialist, should be preparing a report, for the Division of Oil Gas and Mining, about the construction procedures. (715.15(a)(9).

717.17 Protection of the Hydrologic System

The water in the preparation plant is self contained so it is constantly being recycled. A series of filtering ponds and filters in the plant have been built to reuse the water for reuse in the preparation plant.

Subsoil drainage was being diverted around and off of the affected area through perforated pipes installed up slope, from the preparation plant. It is diverted around the southern perimeter of the site and discharged into an adjoining farmer's field for his use.

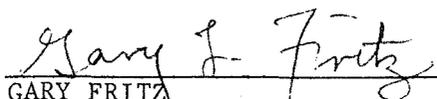
The surface runoff is being controlled. The lower end of the area is banked by the railroad spur so drainage does not leave the affected area. There are no sediment ponds at the plant. Mr. Guy said that a couple were going to be built. One will control the drainage from the yard, so it can be used, and the other will receive runoff from the refuse piles. The company also wants to catch the water from the areas before it gets to the railroad bed so that it does not accumulate there.

Surface and ground-water was being monitored. Sample reports were reviewed for December of 1977 and March of 1978. Additional samples were being tested, but the results were not back from the lab.

Several ground-water wells were going to be installed, as a result of OSM's John Hardaway's (Chief, Technical Analysis and Research) recommendation during a recent field review, by TAR, in Utah. At the present time, ground-water is being monitored in the subsurface diversion network which is above the area but additional steps should be taken to be aware of any adverse impact on the zone from the preparation plant.

717.20 Topsoil Handling and Revegetation

The topsoil and subsoil piles are going to be broadcast seeded this fall. Additional topsoil is being removed from a new 120 foot diameter static thickner site which was under construction.


GARY FRITZ
RECLAMATION SPECIALIST