



UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES
Oil, Gas & Mining

0006

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MODIFICATION OF NOTICE OF VIOLATION/CESSATION ORDER

To the following Permittee or Operator:

Name Western States Minerals Corporation

Mailing Address 250 South Rock Blvd, Suite 130, Reno NV 89502

State Permit No. ACT/015/002

Utah Coal Mining & Reclamation Act, Section 40-10-1 et seq., Utah Code Annotated (1953):

Notice of Violation No. N 91-35-6-1 dated November 18, 19 91.

Cessation Order No. C _____ dated _____, 19 _____.

Part 1 of 1 is modified as follows: The abatement is changed

from "address the requirements to" "The Division will

Reason for modification is accept the proposal to remove silt
fence, without placement of additional structure, to

Part _____ of _____ is modified as follows: satisfy the permit stipulation.

Abatement will be accomplished when the text and

Reason for modification is appropriate maps in the Mining and
Reclamation Plan are modified to read "The Division

Part _____ of _____ is modified as follows: silt fences". (Per letter to

E.M. Grick from Dianne R. Nielson dated
December 7, 1992).

Date of service (mailing) 5-21-93 Time of service (mailing) 11:00 a.m. p.m.

Date of inspection _____

E.M. Grick
Permittee/Operator representative

Title

Signature _____

LDWELL P. Braxton
Division of Oil, Gas & Mining

Associate Director, Mining
Title

LDWELL P. Braxton
Signature



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

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May 20, 1993

CERTIFIED RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
No. P 540 713 949

E. M. Gerick, Vice President
of Operations
Western States Minerals
Suite 130
250 South Rock Boulevard
Reno, Nevada 89502

Dear Mr. Gerick:

Re: Status of Notice of Violation, N91-35-6-1, January 20, 1993 Response to December 7, 1992 Division Letter, Western States Minerals, J.B. King Mine, ACT/015/002, Folder #2, Emery County, Utah

The Division staff has reviewed the additional information submitted by Western States Minerals Corporation (WSMC) required by the December 7, 1992, letter from the Division Director for the abatement of Notice of Violation (NOV) N91-35-6-1 and N91-32-6-1. This letter summarizes the findings of the technical staff regarding the information that was submitted and establishes the Division's position as to the adequacy of the response.

NOV N91-35-6-1

The December 7, 1992, letter stated that "Abatement of N91-35-6-1 will be accomplished when the text and appropriate maps in the Mining and Reclamation Plan are modified to show elimination of the silt fences."

Map JBK-1 was resubmitted with a revised date of January 5, 1993. The map indicated that the silt fences were eliminated but also deleted the green shading which identified the 3.8 acres of augmentative seeding done in October 1989. Additionally, the map was not recertified after these changes. The area of augmentative seeding must be delineated and the map certified prior to approval of Map JBK-1, Revision (1).

Therefore, this map may be accepted with the area of augmentative seeding accurately depicted on the map, and the map recertified. Per your discussion with



Page 2
Western States Minerals Corporation
J. B. King Mine
ACT/015/002
May 20, 1993

Lowell Braxton April 28, 1993, silt fences may be removed. However, it should be understood that the removal of the silt fences does not eliminate the need to control erosion by other means, nor that the configuration will meet future bond release criteria.

The following comments apply to modifications of the text of the permit to accommodate removal of the silt fences:

The text was changed pursuant to UMC 817.45 Hydrologic Balance: Sediment Control Measures to state that, "very little sediment has accumulated behind these silt fences." This statement is misleading and should be deleted due to the fact that the appearance of little sediment is due to the operator maintaining and cleaning out the accumulated sediment as requested during Division inspections and washing of the sediment downhill when they have not been maintained.

WSMC also revised the text to state that "after the silt fences are removed, the sediment will be spread out evenly." This statement should be changed to read that, "the sediment will be spread out unevenly."

WSMC has amended the text of UMC 817.106 Regrading and Stabilizing Rills and Gullies to allow onsite maintenance without restarting the bond clock. Pursuant to Utah Admin. R. 645-301-357.100 this inference must be removed from the amendment and the area in which gullies were repaired in 1992, must be delineated on Plate JBK-1 Revision (1) as augmentative.

WSMC has also amended the text regarding UMC 817.56 Post-Mining Rehabilitation and Sedimentation Ponds, Diversion, s Impoundments, and Treatment Facilities. Pursuant to R. 645-301-880.320, the sedimentation pond may not be allowed to fill in naturally. The text must be revised accordingly.

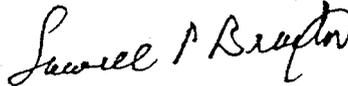
A proposal was made to allow the removal of topsoil material from the surface of the refuse pile by erosion and to allow the eventual exposure of coal refuse. This proposal does not meet the performance standards pursuant to R. 645-301-242, R. 645-301-553.250, R. 645-301-553.300, R. 645-301-731.300, and R. 645-301-745.113 and is therefore denied.

Page 3
Western States Minerals Corporation
J. B. King Mine
ACT/015/002
May 20, 1993

Conclusion

Violation N91-35-6-1 may be terminated upon the following: Map JBK-1, Revision (1) must be recertified and the area of augmentive seeding done in October 1989 redrafted on the map exactly where it was removed. Changes in the text suggested above, although not a specific condition of termination should be submitted along with the map. The attached modification of the NOV requires submission of the materials within 45 days following receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,



Lowell P. Braxton
Associate Director

vb

Enclosure

cc: P. Grubaugh-Littig
J. Helfrich

jbking

5-14-93



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING



File

Norman H. Bangertter
Governor
Dee C. Hansen
Executive Director
Dianne R. Nielson, Ph.D.
Division Director

355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203
801-538-5340

December 7, 1992

CERTIFIED RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
P 540 713 916

Mr. E. M. Gerick
Vice President of Operations
Western States Minerals Corporation
Suite 130
250 South Rock Boulevard
Reno, Nevada 89502

Dear Mr. Gerick:

Re: Western States Minerals Corporation, J. B. King Mine, NOV's
N91-35-6-1, N91-35-7-1, and N91-32-6-1, ACT/015/002,
Folder #5, Emery County, Utah

As we discussed at our August site meeting, the exchange of information and discussions of reclamation alternatives oriented towards abatement of these violations has been lengthy. This site review made me appreciate that although the facts of these violations are supportable, and abatement is required, a continued review of the options available to both Western States Minerals Corporation (WSMC) and the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM) for abatement justified the extended review time. I have now reviewed the September 15, 1992, information submitted to abate these violations, and have discussed the applicability of this information with my staff. The following constitutes the agency's response for abatement of the individual NOV's.

N91-35-6-1

This NOV was issued for:

"Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the permit. Failure to completely address and satisfy the requirements of permit stipulation R614-301-742.113 (TM) in a timely manner."

The portion of the operation to which the notice applies:

Page 2
E. M. Gerick
December 7, 1992

"All reclaimed surfaces with erosion problems."

Remedial action:

"Address the requirements of the stipulation in a complete and adequate manner that is in compliance with the regulations and acceptable to the Division."

The referenced stipulation reads:

"Within 60 days of permit approval, the applicant must submit a plan to provide long term solutions for phasing out silt fences and incorporating more permanent erosion control structures in their place. The plan must identify the structures that will be used and how they will be designed and implemented. The material must be submitted for insertion into the PAP."

Assessment of WSMC's Response

Page three of the September 15, 1992, submittal discussed N91-35-6-1. Dr. Bamberg's recommendations on page 3 provide language oriented to abatement of N91-35-6-1:

Allow vegetation and soils to continue to mature,

Prevent any man-made re-disturbance of the soil,

Remove silt fencing and other sediment control structures to allow the site to adjust to natural erosion rates given the configuration of the site.

The Division's evaluation of the site at the time the stipulation was written was that the silt fences were not performing the erosion control function anticipated in the Mining and Reclamation Plan, hence the permit stipulation and subsequent notice of violation.

Conclusion

The Division will accept the proposal to remove silt fences, without placement of additional structures, to satisfy the permit stipulation. Abatement of N91-35-6-1 will be accomplished when the text and appropriate maps in the Mining and Reclamation Plan are modified to show elimination of the silt fences. These permit changes must be submitted within 45 days of receipt of this letter.

Page 3
E. M. Gerick
December 7, 1992

In accepting silt fence removal as appropriate abatement of N91-35-6-1, the Division is not making a finding that the site is erosionally stable. The Division is not representing that, in the event of future erosion in the permit area, measures beyond those contemplated by Dr. Bamberg, will not be required. Nor is the Division representing that the present site configuration will meet future bond release criteria with respect to erosion.

If WSMC believes site stability can be enhanced by additional seeding and shrub planting at the time of silt fence removal, you are encouraged to discuss methodology and documentation with DOGM staff.

It is essential that the permit (Reclamation Plan) accurately reflect what is occurring on the ground. Any changes in the plan must be approved by the Division before implementation. Site maintenance in accordance with performance standards, rules, and the permit is an ongoing responsibility.

N91-35-7-1

This NOV was issued for:

"Failure to minimize erosion to the extent possible, and failure to minimize erosion off of the refuse pile."

Portion of the operation to which the notice applies:

"The reclaimed surface of the refuse pile and the slope south and east of the refuse pile."

Remedial action:

"Provide a complete and adequate plan to the Division outlining methods to minimize erosion on the areas referenced above."

Assessment of WSMC's Response

The September 15, 1992, submittal addresses abatement of N91-35-7-1 on pages 1-3. Although somewhat complicated by combining the abatement of N91-35-6-1 and N91-35-7-1 in one discussion, it is clear in WSMC's response that erosion control of the coal refuse pile carries considerably more baggage in the eyes of DOGM and WSMC than the issuing language and remedial action would imply. In the simplest sense, in issuing the violation, DOGM asked WSMC to demonstrate that, given observable erosion at the locations, it had controlled or prevented erosion

Page 4
E. M. Gerick
December 7, 1992

to the extent possible (R645-301-742.113).

WSMC's response did not enumerate additional steps that could enhance erosion control (as requested), but instead concentrated on discussions indicating that performance standards cited at R645-301-752 through 752.250 had not been violated. In responding to the NOV, WSMC provided a considerable amount of information suggesting many of the requisite sediment control performance standards are being satisfied.

Conclusion

The information provided by WSMC basically documents how the approved plan is performing. Since N91-35-7-1 asked for a plan "outlining methods to minimize erosion to the areas referenced" and did not allege performance standard violations beyond minimization of erosion, WSMC's response will be considered satisfactory for abatement purposes.

In making the finding that N91-35-7-1 is abated based on the September 15 submission, the Division is not representing that the present site configuration is acceptable for post-mining land use and bond release purposes or that compliance with the sediment control performance standards cited at R645-301-752 has been established with respect to future inspections.

The discussion of minimization of erosion may have a bearing on adequacy of cover material over the coal refuse pile. R645-301-553.252 establishes a minimum of four feet of cover over refuse materials. This regulation grants the Division authority to allow less than four feet of cover when a demonstration of soil stability and revegetation success can be made. WSMC's submittal included an analysis of the acid neutralization/acid generation potential for selected sample locations using the Nevada Meteoritic Water Mobility Test (NMWMT) procedure. While the data from this procedure are encouraging, if WSMC proposes to rely on the NMWMT procedure to substantiate compliance with water quality performance standards, it should ensure that samples collected and analyzed are representative of the site in a 3-dimensional sense. I would encourage you to discuss representative sampling with my staff. The Reclamation Plan should also be amended to reflect changes in the site or the criteria for evaluation of the site. It is essential that WSMC be able to demonstrate through monitoring, analyses, or other means that any erosion that occurs on-site will not adversely impact water quality off-site and on-site, with respect to the post-mining land use.

Page 5

E. M. Gerick

December 7, 1992

In support of the NMWMT procedure, a discussion of its comparability with other analytical techniques used for acid/toxic determination and its value as a measure of site conditions is necessary.

DOGM will be evaluating the J. B. King site in 1993, using an Erosion Condition Classification System developed by BLM and modified by OSM. We anticipate annual evaluations of the site using this technique to establish trends in site stability. We will make these results available to WSMC, and invite you to participate in discussions and field studies.

I believe continued coordination of results of vegetation surveys will enhance our ability to evaluate the appropriateness of cover to the post mining land use and bond release criteria. With respect to the vegetation survey, please include a concurrent survey of the reference area, so that comparisons can be made and vegetation success demonstrated.

N91-32-6-1

This NOV was written for:

"Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the approved permit. Failure to implement and control the Main Feeder Ditch and the Feeder Ditch in accordance with the Design criteria specificized in the permit."

The portion of the operation to which the notice applies:

"The Main Feeder Ditch and the Feeder Ditch (Maps No. 4050-5-14B)."

Remedial Action:

"Construct the feeder ditch and the feeder ditch in accordance with the approved permit."

Assessment of WSMC's Response

The response dated September 15, 1992, proposed replacement of section 817.44 of the permit to allow natural erosion to seek the most stable location and configuration for the subject ditches. The justification proposed is that the sinuous channels (the feeder Ditch and the Main Feeder Ditch) in the approved permit differ from straight channels existing in adjacent undisturbed drainage basins, and conformance to the presently approved design represents an uphill fight against natural

geomorphic processes.

The argument that geomorphic stability under arid land erosion conditions is evolutionary may have merit to the extent that previous attempts to engineer a solution to the problem have not proven successful. To fully apply this concept, under the authority provided at R645-301-743.314, the portions of the plan discussing final reclamation configuration and design would need to be amended to show:

1. The current configuration, in plan and cross-section, of the feeder ditch and main feeder ditch;
2. An evolutionary "design sequence" beginning with the constructed configuration in the approved plan, through the present configuration, to an ultimate configuration more compatible with the prevalent geomorphology. Included with additional text would be a series of maps and channel sections (cross sectional and longitudinal) depicting anticipated evolutionary stages ultimately resulting in geomorphic stability;
3. A discussion of how the proposed amendment to the Reclamation Plan will ensure compliance with applicable laws, rules, and performance standards, including prevention to the extent possible additional contributions of suspended solids to stream flow outside the permit area; and
4. How these changes will approximate the characteristics of the original, premining channels.

Conclusion

N91-32-6-1 cannot be abated based on the information submitted in the September 15, 1992, package. In allowing submission of additional data directed towards abatement, the Division is not making a finding of their adequacy in advance of submission. The Division will consider the adequacy of any additional data for abatement of this violation, if submitted within 45 days of receipt of this letter.

Summary

Information to abate violation N91-35-6-1 is enumerated in that section of this letter. Additional information is required to abate violation N91-32-6-1. The nature of that information is described in that section of this letter. In both cases, the

Page 7
E. M. Gerick
December 7, 1992

information is to be submitted to the Division within 45 days of receipt of this letter. Violation N91-35-7-1 is determined to be abated.

Thank you for your ongoing effort to address these concerns. If you have questions or want to discuss items, please contact Lowell or me.

Best regards,



Dianne R. Nielson
Director

vb
cc: L. Braxton
P. Grubaugh-Littig
jbkg1192