



0003

United States Department of the Interior  
OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING  
Reclamation and Enforcement  
POST OFFICE BLDG. RM. 270  
1823 STOUT STREET  
DENVER, COLORADO 80202

*Route a copy  
file this in  
ACT/015/004  
Swisher # 4*

December 4, 1979

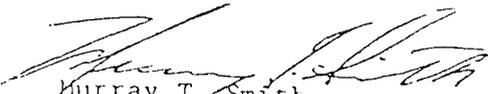
Ron Daniels/Coordinator of Mine Land Division  
State of Utah  
Division of Oil and Gas  
Dept. of Natural Resources  
1588 N. West Temple  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

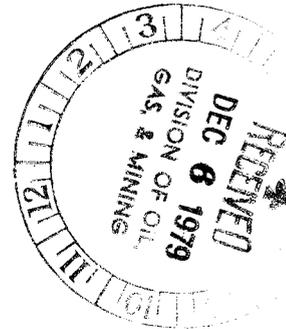
Dear Ron:

Enclosed please find copies of on-site inspection reports. The inspections were conducted within the State of Utah during the period of September 17, 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  
UNDERGROUND COAL MINE  
HUNTINGTON CANYON #4  
P.O. Box A.U.  
1109 SOUTH CARLTON AVENUE  
PRICE, UTAH, 84501

DATE: September 17, 1979  
TIME: 1:25 p.m.  
WEATHER: Clear and Warm  
COUNTY AND STATE: Emery County, Utah  
STATE PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/015/004  
MSHA NUMBER: 42-01270  
COMPANY OFFICIAL: Dan Guy  
STATE OFFICIALS: Tom Suchoski, Joe Helfrich, and Doug Stewart  
OSM OFFICIAL: Gary Fritz  
NOV(S) ISSUED: None

GENERAL COMMENTS

This inactive mine is located about 12 miles northwest of the town of Huntington. Vehicle access to the mine and upper reaches of Mill Fork Creek is provided by a Forest Service Road up Mill Fork Canyon off Utah Highway #31. The area is bounded on the north by Little Bear Canyon and on the south by Mill Fork Canyon. The terrain is mountainous with steep cliffs and deeply incised drainages. The company stopped mining in October 1978 because their Federal short-term lease expired.

Federal and fee coal will be brought out of the mine on the existing 42-inch belt conveyor. It will then be run through a single roll crusher and carried through an enclosed chute to their temporary storage site located on a bench below the portal pad. The coal will be loaded into trucks and hauled to the company's preparation plant and loading facilities in Consumers Canyon or their Castle Valley Spur site.

Two seams of coal are being considered for mining and have been mined by earlier enterprises. The (upper) Blind Canyon and the (lower) Hiawatha Seams have a vertical separation of about 90 feet. The 9 foot average Blind Canyon Seam was mined by Swisher. The company is making plans to develop the lower seam at a later date. Initial development yields will average about 1,000 tons per day, with full scale production tonnages running up to 2,000 tons a day, with the anticipated total output of almost 500,000 tons annually.

SWISHER COAL/HUNTINGTON CANYON #4

717.11 General Obligations

The company has a current Utah mining license, ACT/015/004, that was approved in August 1976. They also have an approved 30 CFR 211 plan that was valid for the previous mining done at the #4 Mine for the short-term coal lease that has expired. Additional amendments to their current mining plans have been submitted for their new Federal lease application.

717.12 Signs and Markers

Dan Guy said the Forest Service Road that serves as access to the #4 Mine, off Utah Highway #31, is generally locked. Forest Service and fee property is crossed several times on this road going up the canyon. A sign identifying the mine was posted on the locked gate at the exit off Highway #31; the access road to the portals off the Forest Service Road; and the access road to the temporary coal storage-office/showerhouse pad.

717.14 Backfilling and Grading of Surface Work Areas

Additional construction is planned for several areas within the permit boundary. The area below the proposed office/bathhouse building is going to be extended to provide space for parking. The area is presently being used as a leach field and will continue to be used as such in addition to the new parking site. The haulroad is also going to be widened if the Forest Service will authorize the impoundment.

717.17 Protection of the Hydrologic System

The company proposes to divert the canyon drainage in the mine area from above the affected area around both the upper and lower mine yards to reduce the drainage to be treated. Runoff is collected in a 3 foot culvert at the head of the canyon, but at the present time the pipe ends on the lower mine yard. Runoff then flows through the permit area and enters Mill Creek before it is treated. Plans are made to extend the corrugated pipe beyond the stockpiling and loading area to prevent contamination of the runoff.

A gentle slope below the stockpile and loading area is being studied for the location of a two pond system for drainage control of the mine yards. Soil samples have been taken to determine the stability and saturation potential for the impoundments. The company is required to establish a drainage control system for these areas and the haulroads, prior to renewed mining activity.

Dan Guy said there is not enough water in the mine for their mining equipment. A springhouse was built on Mill Creek to provide water for the continuous miners and for shower facilities. The company has a discharge permit, UT-002312, which is effective until June 30, 1983, for their bypass and overflow on the Creek.

717.17 Protection of the Hydrologic System (Continued)

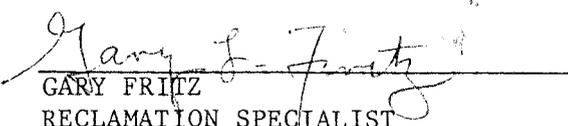
Another discharge permit, UT-0023116, has been issued to the company for the proposed sediment ponds for runoff of the mine yards.

Hydrologic monitoring has been neglected since the mine closed. I told Mr. Guy that it would be to the company's advantage to renew both ground and surface water monitoring prior to permit approval.

Concern has been expressed about mining the Hiawatha Coal Seam which is an aquifer, or is just below one. A spring in Little Bear Canyon that provides a portion of the water supply for the City of Huntington discharges about 200 feet below the coal formation. The City Council has filed a protest against their mining proposal because they feel that it may reduce or eliminate this culinary water supply. The mining company contends that their operation will not affect the aquifer.

CONCLUSION

OSM and the State of Utah are reviewing the company's revised mining plan. Violations were not issued for this operation since the mine was closed. However, as mining or development thereof begins, the company will be subject to penalty and assessment on this property, if violations exist.

  
GARY FRITZ  
RECLAMATION SPECIALIST