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July 5, 1996

To: Files

From: Pamela Grubaugh-Littig, Permit Supervisor *pgl*

Re: On-Site Oversight Evaluations, Phase II Bond Release - Erosional Stability, Trail Canyon Mine, Co-Op Mining Company, ACT/015/021, Huntington #4 Mine, Mountain Coal Company, ACT/015/004, and Gordon Creek #3 and #6 Mines, Mountain Coal Company, Folder #3, Carbon and Emery Counties, Utah

SUMMARY

One of the elements of the 1996 Utah oversight evaluation included "Erosional Stability at Phase II Bond Release." A field visit was made on June 27, 1996 to evaluate erosional stability to three mines that have received Phase II bond release, Trail Canyon Mine, Huntington #4 Mine, and Gordon Creek #3 and #6 Mine.

FIELD EVALUATION

The first site visited on June 27, 1996 was the Trail Canyon Mine in Huntington Canyon. The evaluation team included Michael Rosenthal, (OSM-WRCC), Sharon Falvey, Pamela Grubaugh-Littig, and Pete Hess (DOGM), and Charles Reynolds (Co-Op Mining Company). The weather was overcast with a slight rain. The team walked the upper pad and noted erosional stability and along with vegetative establishment. The team then proceeded to visually note the middle pad and the lower pad.

The overall consensus at this mine was erosional stability. One note of concern was a slope area above the lower pad where a channel had been repaid. The area of concern is not included in the disturbed area. It was suggested that the resident of Trail Canyon City plant this area to prevent further erosion.

The second evaluation site was Huntington #4 Mine, also located in Huntington Canyon. A Phase III bond release inspection was being conducted in conjunction with this oversight evaluation. In attendance were: Michael Rosenthal (OSM-WRCC), Sharon Falvey, Jess Kelley, Susan White, Bob Davidson, Mike Sufilita, and Pamela



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Grubaugh-Littig (DOGM), and Christine Johnston (Mountain Coal Company) and Dan Guy and Dana Ballard (Blackhawk Engineering). The entire site was walked and observed. It was agreed by the entire group that this site is stabilized.

The third site was Gordon Creek #3 and #6 Mine which was evaluated in the afternoon. In attendance were: Michael Rosenthal (OSM-WRCC), Susan White, Sharon Falvey, and Pamela Grubaugh-Littig (DOGM), and Christine Johnston (Mountain Coal Company), and Dan Guy and Dana Ballard (Blackhawk Engineering). The group walked the upper road and pad and observed the entire site from that vantage point and concluded that this site is also stabilized.

DISCUSSION

The Utah Coal Regulatory Program contains the broad requirement to minimize erosion to the extent possible using the best technology currently available, and to limit additional contribution of suspended solids to stream flow. This includes stabilization of slopes. The key indicator of success in this oversight element was the lack of excessive erosion and that a stable landform had been achieved at all three mines.

CONCLUSION

The field evaluation of the three mines that have achieved Phase II bond release concluded that erosion has been minimized to the extent possible. Due to the positive finding of this oversight element, no further review is required.

cc: Michael Rosenthal, OSM-WRCC
Lowell Braxton
Sharon Falvey
Daron Haddock
Joe Helfrich

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