

0008

February 11, 1985

TO: Coal File, Inspection and Enforcement
FROM: Sandy Pruitt, Mining Field Specialist *SP*
RE: Hidden Valley Mine, Soldier Creek Coal Company,
INA/015/007, File #7, Emery County, Utah

The inactive Hidden Valley Mine site was inspected by Sandy Pruitt in response to Ten Day Notice #X-84-2-31-1 received January 21, 1985. On January 30, 1985, a topsoil marker was in place on the topsoil stockpile at the Hidden Valley Mine as required for appropriate response to the Ten Day Notice.

The condition of the mine site appeared good. No excessive erosion was apparent. Revegetation success of a small disturbed area along the road was good with some establishment of Shadscale similar to adjacent areas. All drainage culverts inspected along the road were clear for unobstructed flow. There was no evidence of a recent sediment pond discharge or any circulation along the discharge pipe. The north portal remained fenced. There is no evidence of recent access. The adjacent two portals have been backfilled.

Following the mine inspection, Mr. Dave Spillman and Tom Paluso were contacted at the Soldier Creek Mine office. At this office, a March 23, 1981 letter notifying DOGM of a temporary cessation of the Hidden Valley Mine was available for inspection as required.

No water monitoring data was available or had been collected since the mine was shut down in January, 1981. This was a violation of the approved mine plan, the permanent performance standards and the interim performance standards which are applicable, due to the unique status of the inactive mine operation. NOV #N85-2-1-1 was issued for the failure to conduct surface and groundwater monitoring in accordance with approved plans. The provisions cited were UMC 817.131(a); the interim performance standard, MC 717.17(b); and the interim permit approved April 14, 1980. The remedial action of the NOV requires that Soldier Creek Coal Company conduct water monitoring in accordance with the approved Interim Program Permit or subsequent modifications approved by DOGM no later than February 28, 1985.

The interim performance standards were enforced under the direction of Ron Daniels since the Hidden Valley Mine was permitted under the Interim Program and operations ceased during the Interim Program. In the mine cessation notification letter, dated March 23, 1981, Soldier Creek Coal Company informed DOGM of their

Page 2
INA/015/022
February 11, 1985

intentions not to submit a Permanent Program Mining Permit Application until they intended to reactivate the mine . Dave Spillman informed this inspector that Soldier Creek Coal Company has no intentions to reclaim the Hidden Valley Mine site at this time, therefore, DOGM must now require a Permanent Mining Permit Application in lieu of reclamation.

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cc: Dave Spillman, Soldier Creek Coal Company
Donna Griffin, OSM
Joseph Helfrich, DOGM

Statistics:

See Deer Creek Mine memo on February 7, 1985.

0071Q-31-33