

October 12, 1976

MEMO TO FILE:

Re: Trail Mountain Coal Company
Sec. 25, T. 17S., R. 6 E.
Emery County, Utah

ACT-015-009

A meeting was attended in Castle Dale, Utah, by Brian W. Buck, Engineering Geologist and myself Tuesday, October 5, 1976, to become further familiar with the Trail Mountain Coal Company proposal in Cottonwood Creek, Emery County. In attendance were; U.S.G.S., U.S.F.S., B.L.M., College of Eastern Utah, the operator, and the local newspaper (Emery County Progress).

Mr. Jack Bell presented the proposal under which Trail Mountain Coal Company will develop 60 fee acres of coal and an adjoining 40 acres of federal coal. Mining will be by underground methods utilizing room and pillar techniques. The short term goal here is to mine 1,000 tons per day from the combined 100 mineral acres of coal. Mining will continue for two years on the total acreage. By the end of this period of time Mr. Bell hopes to qualify under the federal government's short term criteria for lease of additional coal, 640 mineral acres of State coal adjoins the Trail Mountain property to the south. The State coal is presently under lease to McKinnon Company.

While development work is underway and the mine is producing a small amount of coal, a mining and reclamation plan has not been filed for the fee surface acreage. Six surface acres comprise the ancillary facilities area. While space is limited in surface acres the site gives practically the only access to all the coal under Trail Mountain and therefore is strategic.

Several recommendations were made to Mr. Bell for inclusion of his mining and reclamation plan which will be submitted to the Division; (1) locate reject pile on his mine map, (2) locate the settling pond, should the mine produce water and such a pond be necessary, (3) specify species which will be included in the stabilization process, and (4) maintain a 2' - 3' earth berm on the Cottonwood Creek side of the entire operation to keep run-off containing silt and coal fines out of Cottonwood Creek.

A water discharge was observed directly into Cottonwood Creek on the day following the inspection.

DIVISION OF OIL, GAS, AND MINING

Ronald W. Daniels
Coordinator of Mined
Land Development

RWD/lm