

August 9, 1977

Memo to File:

Re: Trail Mountain Coal Company
Trail Mountain Coal Mine
Emery County, Utah
ACT/015/009

On July 29th 1977, Ron Daniels and myself inspected the Trail Mountain Mine surface facilities with Mr. John Bell, President.

The local vicinity was subjected to high precipitation totals on the 19th and 23d of July. The lower stream crossing to the pad had been overtopped when the culvert became plugged. The overpass showed signs of settlement due to piping which probably did not greatly affect its overall structural integrity, but just as probably did have an adverse effect of dead load distribution over the culvert. Had the interior erosion and settlement continued, the culvert may have been completely closed by crushing or slumping of the overpass. Erosion of the overpass caused coal waste and coal from the eroded material to be spread downstream.

A small canyon immediately to the west of the main building had discharged a substantial volume of water onto the pad surface near the upper overpass. No assessment of damage to the pad could be made as it had been recently regraded. The constructed sluiceway above the pad apparently passed all of the water, but is now choked with sediment and should be regraded to form a uniform channel with a higher and thicker berm.

The upper culvert and overpass faired better than the lower installation, but showed signs of its inadequacy by nature of a high water mark a number of feet above the culvert invert. The culvert was almost plugged at its upstream end with debris.

The pad surface was inspected and a number of eroded gullies were found where surface runoff drained over the pad into Cottonwood Creek. A three (3) foot high berm was present along the pad edge adjacent to the coal pile, but did not extend far enough along the creek to provide adequate protection from coal being washed over the pad edge. The present grade of the pad does not provide for the capture and clarification of runoff from the majority of the pad surface. A settling pond was present and appeared to be sufficient for the mine drainage.

Trail Mountain Coal Company
August 9, 1977
Page Two

It would have to be cleaned and/or enlarged prior to the next storm.

In general, the surface facilities were in poor shape and were not up to Division standards. Mr. Bell said that he would comply with the staff's suggestions in regard to the protection of the creek. He agreed to install the new facilities with six (6) months, this was acceptable to the staff.

BRIAN W. BUCK
ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST

/tlb