

*Ron JWS  
XMP*

August 16, 1978

Memo to File:

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

On August 8, 1978, James Smith and Michael Minder met with John Bell (owner & operator of mine) to observe control facilities preventing pollution of Cottonwood Creek. Mr. Bell accompanied us as we examined the loadout area and mine yard, explaining his future plans and answering questions.

A one-foot earth berm was being constructed above the creek, and when completed, it should route runoff water from the loadout area around the yard into a sediment pond. Overland flow from undisturbed areas above the mine would be diverted to a canyon west of the mine yard where it would enter a culvert, conveying it directly to Cottonwood Creek. At this time neither the culvert to the creek nor the one under the access road (diverting runoff into the sediment pond) were available for inspection.

The sediment pond had previously washed out, carrying the embankment along with other debris into Cottonwood Creek. Mr. Bell said he repaired the pond, being careful to use suitable material and compacting in 12" - 18" lifts. However, the basin was not designed nor constructed under supervision of a professional engineer and appeared to be inadequate in both design and construction. An embankment extended 20' - 25' from the edge of the creek to the top of the sediment pond and was comprised of sand, waste materials including coal, and gravel. Large rocks, a section of culvert, lengths of PVC pipe, logs and other debris protruded from the face of the embankment. There was no spillway and the yard drainage was channeled over the top in an unlined open depression. Some of the borrow used to repair the sediment pond was taken from across the road leaving a 5' - 6' high open cut in the mouth of a wash. The material was alluvium presenting a high potential for erosion problems. Size of the pond seems small and possibly inadequate for required design volume.

Old 24" culverts under the haul roads over Cottonwood Creek were to be replaced by bridges or culverts capable of a 450 CFS flow. However, U.P.&L. plans to enclose this entire portion of the creek in a culvert to provide more room for the west portal of the Wilberg Mine. We are requesting plans as well as scheduling time, and if it is satisfactory, a duplication of efforts may be eliminated as well as unnecessary costs and resources.

MICHAEL T. MINDER  
RECLAMATION ENGINEER*M.T.M.*

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