

0014



United States Department of the Interior  
OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING  
Reclamation and Enforcement  
BROOKS TOWERS  
1020 15TH STREET  
DENVER, COLORADO 80202

JWS  
Route & File  
ACT/015/009  
MAN MKS  
TSS 8/19  
DAN LCS  
DWH 9/10

July 15, 1980

Mr. Ron Daniels  
Coordinator of Mined Land Development  
Department of Natural Resources  
1588 West North Temple  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

Dear Mr. Daniels:

Enclosed please find a copy(s) of on-site inspection report. The inspection was conducted within Trail Mountain Mine during the period of June 5, 1980.

If you have any questions or problems, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Ehmett  
Acting Assistant Regional Director  
Division of Inspection & Enforcement

RECEIVED  
JUL 17 1980

DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS & MINING

REGION V ON-SITE INSPECTION REPORT

TRAIL MOUNTAIN COAL COMPANY  
TRAIL MOUNTAIN MINE  
Orangeville, Utah 84537  
(801) 748-2140

DATE: June 5, 1980  
TIME: 9:00 a.m.  
WEATHER: Sunny and warm  
COUNTY & STATE: Emery County, Utah  
COMPANY OFFICIAL: Dan Hanna  
STATE OFFICIALS: Joe Helfrich and Mary Kay Stein  
OSM OFFICIALS: Larry Damrau and Dan Martinez  
STATE PERMIT NO: ACT/015/009  
MSHA I.D. NUMBER: 42-01211  
FEDERAL ENFORCEMENT ACTION: Five violations issued June 5, 1980 under Notice of Violation Number 80-5-3-10

Compliance With Interim Regulations

717.11 General Obligations

Copies of mining and reclamation plans, and surface and ground water monitoring plans were available at the minesite. A copy of a State authorization to operate was also available. It was impossible to determine the extent of reclamation activities and plans which were approved due to the numerous comments within different correspondences between the company, State agencies, and Federal agencies. Joe Helfrich will remit the copies of documents which the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining has on file, to aid the company in developing discernible files.

717.12 Signs and Markers

Mine and permit identification signs were posted at both entrances to the minesite, and the information on the signs was adequate. Due to ~~to~~ weathering, the signs were becoming difficult to read, and it is recommended that they be repainted for adequate visibility.

717.14 Backfilling and Grading

Backfilling and grading operations have not been initiated at this site due to the active status of all disturbed areas.

Violation Number 1 of Notice of Violation (NOV) #80-5-3-10 was issued for failure to dispose of waste material in an approved manner. Piles of industrial waste including a cable spool, mining chocks, roof bolts, metal drums, and other materials were deposited on both sides of the north access road where it passes over Cottonwood Creek.

TRAIL MOUNTAIN COAL CO/TRAIL MOUNTAIN MINE

717.17 Protection of the Hydrologic Balance

Violation Number 2 of NOV #80-5-3-10 was issued for failure to minimize disturbance of the prevailing hydrologic balance. Surface drainage from the upper portal area and the water tank adjacent to the office was uncontrolled. Rills and gullies from these areas were evident on the outcrops and access roads. The major surface water control ditch passing through the minesite was severely eroded at the point where it entered the sedimentation pond.

Surface drainage at the north access road across Cottonwood Creek was draining into a small water collection pit constructed to abate a violation previously issued by this office. Upon inspection, it was observed that the pit had a three to four inch diameter hole in the bottom and surface drainage entering the pit passed directly into Cottonwood Creek. At the south access road across Cottonwood Creek surface drainage was escaping from the major drainage ditch, and entering Cottonwood Creek without passing through a sediment control structure. Violation Number 3 of NOV #80-5-3-10 was issued for the above conditions.

Violation Number 4 of NOV #80-5-3-10 was issued for fording a stream. The company had established an access road from the haulroad to Cottonwood Creek at a point where the creek was approximately twenty feet from the haulroad and one eighth mile downstream from the minesite. The access road was utilized by the company to drive their endloader into the creek, fill the bucket with water, and deposit the water on the haulroad to control dust. The endloader utilized for this operation is also utilized as the coal truck loader at the minesite. Another site utilized in the same manner was found approximately a mile and one-half downstream from the minesite.

Materials deposited during maintenance activities associated with the haulroads, access roads, and berms were observed on both sides of Cottonwood Creek. The materials had been deposited over the berm on the west side of the creek and over the edge of the haulroad and into the sideslopes of the creek. Violation Number 5 of NOV #80-5-3-10 was issued for the above conditions.

717.20 Topsoil Handling and Revegetation

Topsoil was not removed from the affected areas prior to conducting surface mining activities. All areas affected in the operation are being utilized at the present time; no backfilling, grading, or revegetation operations have been conducted at this site.

COMMENTS

During the review of the plans and authorizations to operate, several correspondences in reference to the inadequacy of the present 24 inch culverts located under the north and south accesses across Cottonwood Creek between the company

TRAIL MOUNTAIN COAL CO/TRAIL MOUNTAIN MINE

COMMENTS (cont'd)

and different State and Federal agencies were observed. The culverts inadequacies have been a subject of concern since the spring of 1977 when the State recommended a 96 inch culvert at each location. In the fall of 1979, OSM recommended a 48 inch culvert. During this inspection the intake of the culvert under the north (upstream) access was completely submerged, substantiating the government agencies concern of the culverts inadequacy.

  
LARRY DAMRAU  
RECLAMATION SPECIALIST