

June 24, 1980

Inspection Memo
Coal File:

RE: Trail Mountain Mine
Sediment Control Pond
ACT/015/009

During the inspection of Trail Mountain Mine on June 16, 1980, the following observations concerning the sediment pond were made:

1. The pond was constructed by cutting a steep slope and putting the cut material on the downslope of Cottonwood Creek building up an embankment. The slope above the pond failed during construction, as it was undercut. On the slope above the pond, the failure is evident from large tension cracks behind a boulder which slid toward the pond. The safety factor on the slope is questionable, however, field observations indicate that this slope maybe stable, other than surface erosion.
2. The overflow to the pond consists of a ditch with scraps of steel plate placed in the overflow to decrease cutting. The lining, ineffective and in time the overflow from large precipitation events would further cut through the embankment.
3. Along Cottonwood Creek the outslope has slumped under the weight of a bulldozer. At the toe of the slope water was flowing from the embankment approximately 1 foot above the stream level. It appears that this water enters the embankment upstream and flows through the fill and comes out as observed. In any case, the water is not coming from the pond itself, since the pond was dry and no water was entering. This condition jeopardizes the stability of the embankment. It would be advisable for Trail Mountain officials to seal this embankment from entering water if possible.

Lee
LEE SPENCER
RECLAMATION ENGINEER

LS/te

cc: Murray Smith, O.S.M.
Note: for Statistics see:
Inspection Memo for
Trail Mountain Mine
Inspection Memo dated
June 11, 1980.