

February 19, 1980

Inspection Memo
to Coal File:

RE: Trail Mountain Coal Company
Trail Mountain Coal Mine
ACT/015/009

The Trail Mountain Coal Mine was inspected by Joe Helfrich and Mike Thompson on the afternoon of February 5 and 6, 1980. While inspecting the Cottonwood Portal area of Utah Power and Light the inspectors noted that a small percentage of surface runoff from the disturbed area, resulting from the melting snowpeak, was not being diverted into the sediment pond. Specifically, approximately 1/2 to 1 gallon per minute of runoff was flowing across the upper crossing of Cottonwood Creek and thence down the public road and finally into the creek. The small amount of runoff was directly contributing sediment to the creek and also was causing the road to be excessively muddy. Traffic on the road caused the road to remain muddy and probably causing additional contributions of sediment to the creek.

The inspectors noted that the runoff from Trail Mountain's facility was relatively minor. The majority of the runoff on the road was from the hillside on the opposite side of the canyon.

Mr. Tom Rice of Trail Mountain Coal Company was immediately contacted and he very promptly had the problem corrected. In addition, the entire runoff diversion system was reworked. As Mr. Rice acted expeditiously and cooperatively a violation was not issued.

The inspectors returned the afternoon of February 6, 1980 to do a complete walk-over of the property. Upon entering the property the inspectors noted a miner maintaining the diversion system.

The inspectors also noted that a submersible pump had been installed in Cottonwood Creek to provide water to a storage tank on the hillside above the bath house. The Division must check with the State Engineer to be sure this water is appropriated. Mr. Rice was told that the overflow pipe must be extended to the Creek to reduce erosion. There was no problem at this time as the runoff was flowing over

The snowmelt runoff flowing over the mine site contained a strong oil sheen. The source of the oil is from operational spillage at the two fuel tanks. The larger tank is now empty and no longer in use as the mining equipment is now run

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entirely on electricity. The smaller tank is used to hold diésel for the front end loader. Two five gallon buckets full of used motor oil had been left in the open. Oil was observed mixing with runoff at this point. Although oil was observed in runoff on the mine site no oil was observed leaving the permit area.

Runoff was observed flowing over the nearly vertical hillside adjacent to the coal stockpile which was eroding the hillside. Although the runoff flowed to the sediment pond, Mr. Rice was informed that runoff control was required in order to reduce the loss of the soil.

The company will be informed by letter of the problem observed.

K. MICHAEL THOMPSON
ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST

KMT

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cc: O.S.M., Region V

Note: For statistics see Co-op Mine memo dated February 19, 1980.