

October 7, 1981

Inspection Memo
to Coal File:

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

DATE: September 24, 1981
TIME: 10:15 a.m.
WEATHER: Fair and Warm
COMPANY OFFICIALS: Andy King, Alan Childs
STATE OFFICIAL: Sandy Pruitt
FEDERAL OFFICIAL: Ron Sassaman
ENFORCEMENT ACTION: None

Compliance with Permanent Performance Standards

771 et al. Permits

Mining approval was granted under the interim program on May 11, 1978, based on a 211 mine plan approved by the USGS on September 9, 1977. This plan has not been modified significantly.

NPDES permit #UT-0023728 for the sediment pond which receives approximately 500-600 gallons per day mine water authorizes discharge into Cottonwood Creek. The permit dated October 3, 1980, expired on December 31, 1980. An interim permit was obtained on December 30, 1980.

817.11 Signs and Markers

Adequate mine identifications signs, perimeter markers and buffer zone markers were posted as required.

817.21-.25 Topsoil

As the mine operation was initiated prior to enactment of SMCRA, there is no salvagable, undisturbed topsoil.

817.61-.68 Explosives

No surface blasting has been necessary lately.

817.41-.57 Hydrologic Balance

The 48-inch bypass culvert has been completely installed and adequately conveyed runoff water from a recent precipitation event. Boulders in the Cottonwood Creek bed adequately dissipate discharge at the culvert outlet temporarily, depending on the volume and velocity of future discharges. Placement of riprap along the opposite embankment may be necessary if Natomas does not follow through with plans in the near future to connect this bypass culvert with a culvert for Cottonwood Creek.

The area behind the shop has been graded and graveled to prevent a subsidence problem in the southeast corner next to the shop building. The berms and grade of the parking lot were adequately maintained.

Water monitoring data through June 30, 1981, were available for inspection and compliance. NPDES submittals reported no discharge.

Plans for sediment pond enlargement were being reviewed at the Natomas office prior to submittal to DOGM. Natomas plans to implement plans this fall. The pond was full at the time of this inspection. It filled up with sediment somewhat and was undersized when built in August 1980, so it is apparent that enlargement of the pond is necessary. Plus, when the pond was cleaned out last time, the bentonite lining was also removed so the pond leaks into Cottonwood Creek. By culverting a section of Cottonwood Creek and enlarging the pond, these problems can be alleviated. An expeditious review of the plans will be necessary in order for construction to be completed before snowfall. Plans for culverting the section of Cottonwood Creek above the pond will be submitted later and may not be implemented until next spring. Temporary embankment stability measures may be necessary for the embankment on either side of the upper culvert crossing during the interim period.

817.71-.74 Disposal of Underground Development Waste and Excess Spoil

Mr. King informed inspectors that very little waste is generated in the mine as about 18 inches of barrier coal is left in the stable roof that only requires spot bolting. What little waste generated off the floor is stored underground. Inspectors did not examine a USGS approval for this. Waste generated in cleaning out the sediment pond will be hauled out by the contractor.

Trash is burned infrequently in a designated portion of the operation. Inspectors did not examine a burning permit. Abandoned equipment in the parking area is planned for removal and final disposal in the near future. Failure to remove all abandoned equipment to a permanent disposal site will warrant a violation under UMC 817.89 as the equipment has been stored on-site for nearly one year to record (a time frame considered as permanent disposal by State Health).

817.9 Protection of Fish, Wildlife and Related Environmental Values

A survey of the minesite was conducted by Utah Power & Light to determine if power poles were hazardous to the raptor population in the area. Mr. King could not locate the letter in response to that survey. He was informed of the necessity of that letter to avoid citation in the future.

817.111-.114 Revegetation

Natomas will reseed this fall.

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817.121-.126 Subsidence Control

Natomas is retreating from one section in the mine. The Forest Service will conduct a flyover with infrared detection for subsidence monitoring next month. Surface surveys are conducted currently with no indications of subsidence.

817.150-.176 Roads

A determination of the legal status of the section of the haul road on LDS Church property adjacent to the mine operation has not been made yet. Natomas maintains access along the Cottonwood Canyon access road up to the mine. Straw bales were placed in strategic drainage points along the road as requested during the last inspection conducted by Sandy Pruitt.


SANDY PRUITT
RECLAMATION OFFICER

cc: Andy King, Natomas
Tom Ehmett, OSM
Inspection Staff

SP/btm

Statistics:

See Knight Mine memo dated October 7, 1981
Grant: A & E