

July 29, 1982

Inspection Memo  
to Coal FileRE: Natomas Trail Mountain Coal Co.  
Trail Mountain Mine  
ACT/015/009  
Emery County, Utah

The above mentioned mine site was given a partial inspection on July 15, 1982, by Ken Wyatt and Barton Kale, Field Specialists for the Division. They were accompanied by Allen Childs and Andy King of Natomas Trail Mountain Coal Company. The purpose of the inspection was to familiarize the new inspector with this mining operation and tour the surface facilities for compliance.

The installation of the Cottonwood Creek bypass culvert was discussed with the operator. A LDS Church, Utah Power and Light Company, right-of-way dated April 5, 1982 was examined which allows Trail Mountain to install this culvert. Mr. King stated that Trail Mountain intends to install this culvert beginning the end of August or early September, 1982. He further stated that the lower section will be installed even if the upper section extension has not been approved. At the time of this inspection, Trail Mountain had not applied for any of the permits or variances required by the different local, state, or federal agencies (ie, Army Corps of Engineers, Utah State Health, Division of Water Rights, State Engineers Office, U.S. Forest Service, OSM). Additional information was requested on July 20, 1982 by DOGM, concerning plans for the upper culvert extension. Approval for this extension will be forthcoming, once the necessary information has been submitted.

The surface tour revealed a bundle of mine timbers in Cottonwood Creek. Two buffer zone signs had been knocked down during the timber unloading and coal loading process.

Coal was observed on the downslopes adjacent to the coal stockpile area. Coal and fines were noted in the creek itself. Adjacent to the scale house additional coal-like material had been scraped from the road surface and deposited on the berm protecting the integrity of Cottonwood Creek. At the time of this inspection this material was dry, however it was examined and appeared as though the material had been placed there in a semi-fluid state. This was evidenced by the way it had flowed down the downslope into Cottonwood Creek. Due to the neglect of the berm designed to protect the creek, and the neglect for the buffer zones, NOV82-7-5-1 was issued as follows:

NOV82-7-5-1

Nature of the Violation:

Failure to maintain sediment control measures so as to prevent additional contributions of sediment to stream flow or runoff outside the permit area.

INSPECTION MEMO  
ACT/015/009  
July 29, 1982  
Page Two

Provisions of the Regulations Act or Permit Violated:

The Act 1979 40-10-18(i)(ii)  
UMC 817.45 (i)  
UMC 817.45 (iii)(c)

Portion of the Operation to Which Notice Applies:

The berm between Cottonwood Creek and the disturbed area, particularly along the berm adjacent to the coal stockpile, scale house and sediment pond.

Remedial Action Required:

1. Remove timbers from creek
2. Remove coal waste material on embankments just north of the lower access road.
3. Prevent additional influx of coal and materials into Cottonwood Creek

Time for Abatement:

- (1) and (2) - two weeks, no later than July 29, 1982;
- (3) - immediately and in the future.

The inlet to the sediment pond was not well established. Water flowing into the pond has been eroding the inlet creating many small inlet channels. With further erosion, the sediment pond's inlet could erode through the berm and runoff would go directly into Cottonwood Creek, bypassing the sediment pond. This area should be addressed and maintained prior to the next inspection.

*Ken Wyatt*

KEN WYATT  
FIELD SPECIALIST

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cc: Tom Ehmett  
Andy King, Natomas Trail Mountain Coal Company  
Inspection Staff

Statistics:

See Aletha Mine Memo dated July 19, 1982  
Grant: A & E