

April 22, 1982

Inspection Memo
to Coal File:

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

An inspection was conducted by Sandy Pruitt on April 7, 1982, in follow-up to NAOC 82-2-1-1 dated March 3, 1982. Andy King, engineer, accompanied the inspector on a tour of the portion of the operation directly above Cottonwood Creek. In response to the NAOC, Natomas had constructed a poorly designed ditch from the haul/loadout road to the pond. There was no evidence that the ditch had ever carried water to the pond since construction. Excess mud and ponding on the coal loadout pad and at the inlet to the sediment pond (below the new ditch) indicated that the area of concern was not draining as required. Overflow from these ponds drained onto the lower access and was observed flowing onto the haul road off the permit area. If the surface grade over the cross culvert was elevated, runoff would be retained off the road. Maintenance of a swale pitched from the coal loading pad to the sediment pond should adequately drain the area and require minimal maintenance. This same design may be applicable for ponding and runoff problems at the upper crossing also.

Water and oil from the stream cleaner at the shop and water truck fillup is not adequately diverted. Runoff ponds at the base of the berm along the parking lot and at the time of the inspection, was within two inches of overflowing into Cottonwood Creek. The debilitated berm should be reconstructed and the surface grade redesigned to drain runoff toward the pond (instead of toward the creek as at present). Here again, runoff water that was observed flowing off the permit area onto the haul road could be retained if the surface grade over the culvert was elevated.

The improvements in water quality resulting from adequate runoff and sediment control measures may be offset by additional sediment contributions from the unstable stream channel embankments left after the upper cross culvert was installed and the old culvert removed in 1980. DOGM has requested that Natomas stabilize the channel embankments since August 1981. Natomas representatives have proposed culverting the section of Cottonwood Creek to address the embankment problem. No plans have been submitted and no interim stabilization measures have yet been implemented since then.

To promote a more concentrated effort toward sediment control NOV #1 (N82-2-4-1) was issued for failure to design, construct and maintain sediment control structures and re-established stream channel to prevent additional contributions of sediment to stream flow and runoff outside the permit area and to minimize erosion to the extent possible (citing UCA 40-10-18[2][i][ii], UMC 817.43[b], [c], 817.44[b][1], [d], 817.45, 817.57[a]). Portions of the

INSPECTION MEMO TO COAL FILE
ACT/015/009
April 22, 1982
Page 2

operation are those discussed above. Abatement of the violation will require a strong berm along the parking area and adequate surface grades to prevent these reoccurring runoff problems. Plans for stream channel embankment stabilization are to be submitted for approval in time for initiation of the project prior to termination of the NOV (but before July 6, 1982).

SANDY PRUITT
RECLAMATION OFFICER

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

SP/btb

Statistics:

See Skyline memo dated April 22, 1982
Grant: A & E