

File ACT 1015/009 #2
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0059

January 18, 1984

Mr. Allen D. Klein
Center Administrator
Office of Surface Mining
Reclamation and Enforcement
Brooks Towers
1020 15th Street
Denver, Colorado 80202

RECEIVED
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**DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING**

Dear Mr. Klein:

On January 12, 1984, a MSHA representative, Monty Christo^o, reviewed with Louis Hamm the "Mining and Reclamation Plan" for the Trail Mountain Mine (UT-0017). That plan includes diversion of water from Cottonwood Creek into an inactive portion of the Trail Mountain Mine. The inactive area then serves as a storage reservoir for later underground mining uses of the water.

The purpose of the preliminary review was to determine whether the permit documents contained adequate information for MSHA to concur with OSM in approving the water diversion under UMC 817.55. The permit document as revised, January 1984, does not provide adequate detail to determine that the diversion planning adequately safeguards the active mine working.

The document's primary deficiencies are as follows:

1. The reserve reservoir in Figure 3.7 is not described. Appendixed Drawing 7-19 suggests the reserve reservoir is the main sump.
2. The main sump is apparently water-filled, old workings which are at the highest elevation of the mine. The structure(s) retaining the water are not described, nor is the criteria under which they were constructed.
3. The quantity of water retained behind the structures and, how and where that water would collect should the structure fail, are unspecified.

As a result of the preliminary document review, a potential inundation threat to active mine workings was thought to exist. Mr. Allen Childs, the Mine Engineer at Trail Mountain Mine, was contacted by phone for additional information. The information gained can be summarized as follows:

1. The reserve reservoir is indeed the main sump.

2. The main sump is an old mine working partially filled with water. The old working is unaccessible and the condition of that worked out area and the amount of water stored is unknown.
3. The water is retained by three double-concrete-block, arched walls. The center barrier is 5 feet high with 4 feet of water behind it. It does not extend to the roof, but it is trenched into the ribs and floor. The other two barriers are in entries higher in elevation and are 3 feet high, with approximately 2 feet of water behind them.
4. The overall slope of the coal seam is approximately 30 degrees down dip to the northwest, and water lost from the main sumps would flow toward the active workings.
5. The barriers have been in place 5 years and were constructed and approved under Utah Department of Mines guidelines. However, current Utah regulations would require the barriers to be engineered structures with the designs approved prior to construction.
6. Federal/MSHA inspectors have also examined the structures and have found no immediate hazard to exist.
7. The mine operators acknowledge a small inundation risk and are planning to construct a new sump farther into the mine. That sump will be an excavated reservoir in an accessible location which cannot pose an inundation hazard. The present sump will be drained and the barriers removed.

Mr. Childs was informed that MSHA's concurrence in approving the Trail Mountain Mine Mining and Reclamation Plan would require an addendum describing the "new reserve reservoir", its capacity and its lack of inundation potential. Mr. Child responded by agreeing to prepare such an addendum when OSM requests it, and to forwarding it directly to OSM Region V.

Louis Hamm was informed prior to contacting Mr. Childs and of the information gained from the contact. Mr. Hamm agreed to contact Monty Christo when the addendum was received so that the review process can be completed.

Sincerely,



Robert L. Ferriter
Chief, Mine Waste and Construction Division
Safety and Health Technology Center

bcc: D. Walker
J. Mulhern
J. Barton
M. Christo

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