

December 27, 1984

TO: Coal File, Inspection and Enforcement File
FROM: Sandy Pruitt, Mining Field Specialist *SP*
RE: Diamond Shamrock Coal Unit, Trail Mountain Mine,
ACT/015/009, #7, Emery County, Utah

A partial inspection of the above mentioned operation was conducted by Sandy Pruitt on December 20, 1984. Allen Childs was working with mine rescue crews on the Wilberg Mine fire that day. Joe Fielder, General Manager, was present at the mine office.

Mr. Fielder reported on progress in cleaning the sediment pond. The cleaning project was idle at the time of this inspection due to equipment problems and snow. Mr. Fielder mentioned they had checked into costs for a contractor to complete the job, but intended to try to finish the project themselves before spring. To date, about 1/2 of the pond is excavated. The decant pipe is still partially buried. Mr. Fielder said he thought that the valve was open to keep the pond dry for cleaning. Since the decant pipe is still at the level of the sediment in the pond, it is very unlikely that any discharge through the decant would meet effluent limitations. He was instructed to make sure that the decant valve was closed to allow settling before discharge through the principle spillway.

There was no water in the sediment pond, so a discharge was unlikely at this time. Runoff is frozen and mine water can be retained underground. Mr. Fielder reported that the sumps were nearly full to capacity, but inactive works in the mine could be flooded instead of releasing mine water into the sediment pond. Diamond Shamrock reportedly submitted a permit modification to discharge mine water directly into Cottonwood Creek about two weeks prior to this inspection. The connection pipes were installed in October. At that time, it was requested that the diversion pipe to the creek be disconnected until DOGM approval of the modification was obtained. At the time of this inspection, the pipe had been reconnected recently, as evidenced by tracks in new snow. Mine discharge was being pumped directly into Cottonwood Creek. Icicles forming along the pipe and at the discharge point were an indication that the discharge may have occurred since the day before, or earlier.

Since a permit modification had not been obtained yet, Notice of Violation (NOV) N84-2-25-1 was warranted for operating without a permit and failure to operate in accordance with the terms and conditions of the approved mine plan, UCA 40-10-9(1) and UMC 771.19. The remedial action required

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immediate cessation of all mine discharges into Cottonwood Creek until DOGM approval is obtained. The connection pipe is to be completely dismantled and stored in the material storage yard within one week or no later than December 27, 1984 to prevent future unauthorized discharge.

Upon learning that the discharge was occurring, Mr. Fielder immediately shut off the pumps in the mine. The status of DOGM review of the modification will be determined for coordination with the second part of the NOV abatement requirements.

btb

cc: Donna Griffin
Wayne Hedberg
Joe Helfrich

Statistics:

Vehicle: #EX 74965--358 miles

Per Diem: None

Grant: A & E

0379R-26 & 27