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STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES
Oil, Gas & Mining

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July 19, 1989

TO: Rick Smith, Permit Supervisor

FROM: Bill Warmack, Reclamation Specialist WAW

RE: COAL DUST GENERATION, BEAVER CREEK COAL COMPANY (BCCC), TRAIL MOUNTAIN #9 MINE, ACT/015/009, FOLDER #2, EMERY COUNTY, UTAH.

SYNOPSIS

On July 3, 1989, the Division received a letter (dated June 28, 1989) from Mr. John Niebergall, District Ranger for the Manti-LaSal National Forest. In his letter, Mr. Niebergall was concerned about the excessive amount of coal dust along the Cottonwood Canyon Road below BCCC's Trail Mountain Mine. Also, Mr. Niebergall was concerned that the coal dust would enter Cottonwood Creek and adversely effect the water quality. Please refer to the attached letter.

ANALYSIS

On July 19, 1989, I personally met with Mr. Dan Guy (BCCC) and discussed the situation first with him. I then proceeded to the #9 Mine and met with Mr. Park Killpack (BCCC) and inspected the site.

Coal fines were noticeable in the creek channel to approximately 150 feet below the Mine I. D. sign (confluence of Miller Canyon drainage and Cottonwood Creek); below this point, coal fines were not as evident. A significant amount of dust was evident along the road below the lower gate, however, the majority of this area reported to a culvert which drains into the pond. Fines were present in the Cottonwood Creek bypass culvert outlet indicating other sources were contributing coal fines.

Several items were observed that have an influence upon the deposition of coal fines in Cottonwood Creek:

1. The sprinkling system is only functional on the upper half of the coal loadout pad. Sprinkler heads were not installed below the coal stockpiles, although PVC pipe had been previously installed.

2. Creek flow has dropped off considerably. The creek supplies water to a pump which is located in the bypass culvert inlet above the office building. Water was supplied to the system, but not at a constant head.

3. Coal trucks leaving the property did churn up excessive amounts of dust. During this observation, canyon winds were blowing uphill and had a tendancy to direct the coal dust onto Utah Power and Light's (UP&L) Cottonwood Fan Portal site. The amount of coal fines on UP&L's property was not measurable, although evident.

4. At least four culvert inlets are located along the Canyon road that directly allow the migration of coal fines into the creek since they join with the bypass culvert.

5. Moisture in the coal piles virtually eliminated any dust generation during loading. Dust was generated by the loader but appeared to be contained within the immediate area.

6. At the junction of State Highway 29 and the Cottonwood Canyon Road (approximately 3.5 miles below the mine), coal fines were not observed in the creek channel.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The dust problem was discussed with Mr. Killpack and further relayed to Jay Marshall (BCCC). Based upon my observations, I recommend the following remedial actions:

1. Complete the installation of the sprinkler system to the lower gate and install heads that will reach a larger area.

2. Create a basin with sandbags, etc., at the bypass culvert inlet so that the pump can supply a consistent head and flow to the system.

3. Monitor the loadout area and apply water as necessary. If possible, set the system on an automatic timer. Loadout area should be moist, but not saturated, to prevent caking of fines on truck tires.

4. Monitor dust migration onto UP&L's property and culvert inlets along the Canyon Road. If coal fines accumulate, consideration should be given to other supportive measures (ie, slats for the chain link fence).

c.c. PFO

Bill W. Trail Mtn mine file
cc: R.U. Smith, J. Helfrich

United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Manti-LaSal National Forest, Ferron Ranger District | P.O. Box 310, Ferron, Utah 84523

Reply to: 2820

Date: June 28, 1989

RECEIVED
JUL 03 1989
DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

State of Utah
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining
ATTN: Mr. Lowell Braxton
355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203

Dear Mr. Braxton,

I am writing concerning the excessive amount of coal dust along the Cottonwood Canyon Road below Beaver Creek Coal's Trail Mountain Mine. This coal dust may affect water quality in Cottonwood Creek, which is the primary water source for the towns of Orangeville and Castle Dale.

Beaver Creek Coal has installed a sprinkling system around the coal storage and loading area, but it is apparently insufficient to keep the coal wet or is not used frequently enough. Please notify Beaver Creek Coal so they may correct this problem.

Please contact Dale Harber or myself at (801) 384-2372 if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

John Niebergall

JOHN NIEBERGALL
District Ranger