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REGION V ON SITE INSPECTION REPORT

UTAH POWER & LIGHT COMPANY
DEER CREEK MINE
P.O. Box 899
Salt Lake City, Utah 84110
(801) 350-3535

JWS
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MMW
RECEIVED

DEC 24 1979

DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

DATE: November 5, 1979
TIME: Approximately 1:30 p.m.
WEATHER: Cool and overcast
COUNTY & STATE: Emery County, Utah
COMPANY OFFICIALS: Karl Gurr, Larry Guyman, and Stan Truman
STATE OFFICIALS: Mike Thompson, Doug Stewart, and Joe Helfrich
OSM OFFICIALS: Jim Dederick, Hydrologist, TAAR
 Eileen Doherty, Inspector
MSHA I.D. NO: 42-00121
STATE PERMIT NO: ACT/015/018a

GENERAL COMMENTS

The surface disturbance area is located in Sec. 10, T17S, R7E. Utah Power & Light (UP&L) owns the surface rights; mineral rights are Federal and private, including ownership by the Mormon Church. UP&L has owned the mine since 1970, with several operators involved during that period. The present mine plan was approved on January 20, 1978 by the State. Total expected mine life is 30 to 35 years. Surface disturbance is 15 acres.

Approximately 170,000 tons are produced per month. All coal produced is conveyed about three miles to the Huntington Power Plant.

Subsidence monitoring is taking place under the longwall cut.

COMPLIANCE WITH INTERIM REGULATIONS

717.11 General Obligations

The approved mine plan and operating permit were viewed at the mine office. Authorizations were in order.

717.12 Signs and Markers

Violation No. 2 of Notice of Violation Number 79-5-5-10 was terminated after an adequate mine identification sign was posted. Effective date of termination was July 27, 1979 as per a letter of notification received from the operator upon abatement.

717.14 Backfilling and Grading

Mr. Guyman said that the terracing above the conveyor belt from the portal to the coal stockpile resulted from the use of material from the slope for fill purposes on the surface facilities pad; this was done several years ago.

The temporary stockpile of material excavated for sediment pond construction is being worked to build up the parking lot. At this time, material being blasted for the Deer Creek diversion is being placed at this site. Pond excavation is complete.

717.17 Protection of the Hydrologic System

Average annual precipitation in this area is 12 to 16 inches.

Considerable groundwater is encountered in the mine workings. Some of it is used in the mining operations, passed through a skimmer and piped to a sediment pond at the Huntington Power Plant; the remainder is treated for use in the mine bathhouse.

A temporary culverting of Deer Creek is taking place. Deer Creek is intermittent. A 72-inch squash culvert designed for a 50-year storm is being buried to carry the undisturbed Deer Creek flow past the disturbed area. An open culvert will be placed above the squash culvert to divert surface runoff from the adjacent hill to the new sediment pond. The operator hopes to be finished with construction before spring runoff. If not, any flows which occur will have to be directed to the sediment pond.

The new sediment pond is located in the Deer Creek drainage. A culvert passes from the west side of the access road to the east, discharging into the pond. Mr. Gurr stated the discharge point will either be riprapped or dug to rock. On the west inside bank of the pond, a bin wall has been placed for support. The area behind this wall still needs to be filled in.

A 36-inch culvert has been buried to pass the right fork of Deer Creek past the disturbed area. A cement intake with a trash rack is in place.

A NPDES permit for discharges from the new sediment pond is being applied for.

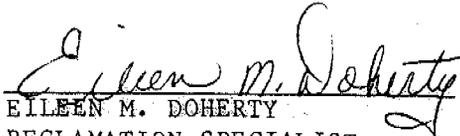
Violation No. 1 of NOV 79-5-5-10 is still pending. The operator has done upgrading of the access road and associated maintenance. There is still some work to be done on ditch cleaning and berming of the road below the sediment pond. The berm on the east side is incomplete. The ditch from the roller storage area must be connected to the receiving culvert. The small culvert to the west of the guard shack needs to be cleared. These items remain to be done now that the road paving has recently been completed.

717.20 Topsoil Handling and Revegetation

No new surface disturbances have occurred since the last inspection.

The State has required the operator to seed all disturbed areas and banks this fall which are inactive. Mr. Gurr stated that roughing will be done in some areas to aid success of revegetation.

- State Violations -
1. Seed all disturbed inactive areas.
 2. There is no lock on the well cover of the sediment spillway gate.
 3. Natural spring must be kept out of sediment pond and passed below into unaffected Deer Creek.


EILEEN M. DOHERTY
RECLAMATION SPECIALIST