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United States Department of the Interior
OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
Reclamation and Enforcement
POST OFFICE BLDG. RM. 270
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June 21, 1979

Mr. Ron Daniels
Coordinator of Mined Land Development
Department of Natural Resources
1588 N. West Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

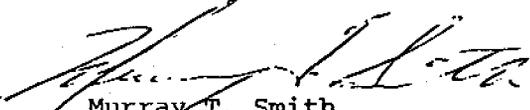


Dear Mr. Daniels:

Enclosed please find copies of on-site inspection reports. The inspections were conducted within the DEER CREEK MINE during the period of June 7, 1979.

If you have any questions or problems, please contact this office.

Sincerely,


Murray T. Smith
Federal Lands Coordinator

REGION V ON-SITE INSPECTION

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

DATE: June 7, 1979
TIME: 1:30 P.M.
WEATHER: Sunny, cool, clear
COUNTY & STATE: Emery County, Utah
COMPANY OFFICIAL: Joe MacDonald - Safety Engineer
Ray Christensen - Vice President of Operations, Emery
Mining Corporation, seen at office in Huntington, Utah
STATE OFFICIAL: Mike Thompson
OSM OFFICIALS: Gary Fritz, Eileen Doherty, Karen Laney
NOV NUMBERS: 79-V-5-10, 79-V-5-11

GENERAL COMMENTS

The Deer Creek Mine access road is approximately seven miles west of the junction of Routes 31 and 10 out of Huntington. The access road heads south off Rt. 31 for three miles before entering the mine site. The portal is located on the east face of the Wasatch Plateau.

Utah Power & Light Company owns the operation, while the Emery Mining Corporation - Savage Brothers is contracted to do the mining. There is one mining portal, located on an old mine opening site. There are some 5,700 acres of associated Federal coal land and 760 acres of fee coal land leased by UP&L. Private surface is UP&L and individuals; Federal surface is the Mante-Lasal National Forest. The mining is taking place in the Blind Canyon Seam at a point where it is approximately 8 feet thick. Operations are utilizing a longwall and 9 block and pillar rooms. According to Joe MacDonald, the Deer Creek Mine has broken through to the Wilberg Mine to the south.

The Huntington Power Plant is on Route 31 at its junction with the mine access road. It is fed directly from the mine site sorter via a conveyor belt along the access road. Life of the mine and plant is projected to be 35 years. Surface facilities occupy 15 acres of National Forest and private land.

The Utah State Permit number is ACT-015-018a; MSHA I.D. number is 42-00121. Federal coal leases for the Federal land in the permit area are:

SL-070645	U-06039
SL-066116	SL-051221
U-02292	U-014275
U-02664	SL-050133

COMPLIANCE WITH INTERIM REGULATIONS

717.11 General Obligations

Necessary current permits, licenses, and approved plans were available and viewed at the Emery Mining Corporation office in Huntington. Mr. Christensen stated they have a subsidence monitoring program at Deer Creek.

717.12 Signs & Markers

Notice of Violation #79-V-5-10 violation #2 was issued for a failure to post and maintain adequate mine and permit identification signs. The State had previously noted the lack of sign maintenance. The sign had been lying on the ground and the operator was directed by the State to properly maintain the sign. During the June 7 inspection, the sign was again on the ground at the guard shack, face-down.

717.14 Backfilling and Grading of Surface Work Areas

A temporary stockpile is being created north of the office-shop area using the material being removed from the sedimentation pond presently under construction. According to the State Regulatory Authority and Joe MacDonald, all material in the stockpile is from the pond site, and will be returned for reclamation purposes. The storage area had previously been a work pad and is being built up with this material.

Above the conveyor coming from the mine to the coal storage area, there has been a terrace cut across the slope face, this was done in 1977, pre-law. The purpose was to aid in slope stability for protecting the conveyor system from the portal.

717.15 Disposal of Excess Rock and Earth Materials

There is no excess rock or earth material from this mine disposed of outside the mine workings or used in backfilling and grading operations.

717.17 Protection of the Hydrologic System

Deer Creek has two forks passing through the permit area. The right fork runs during periods of heavy rains and snowmelt. The State has required a runoff control device be placed in the right fork drainage. At this time, a culvert is being placed west of the office-shop area for diversion purposes.

The left fork is at least intermittent. Whether or not it is perennial was not known by those present. There has been a ½ round culvert lining this channel. The State has required a full round culvert be put in. Additional sedimentation from the hillside to the east of the culvert and from the mine road directly adjacent to the west of the culvert will be kept out of the Creek. Work on this project has

presently been halted by MSHA. To avoid a slide potential situation, they have required the operator to wait until the ground dries out before disturbing it any further.

Notice of Violation #79-V-5-10 violation #1 cites a failure to construct and maintain access and haul roads as well as associated bridges, culverts, ditches, and road right-of-ways. There are points along the east edge of the mine access road where the berm has not been properly maintained above the left fork of Deer Creek. The ditch along the west road edge has almost filled with sediment. The (approx. 14") culvert just west of the guard shack is 90% blocked with sediment.

The road leading from south of the office up to the water tank and a fan portal averages a 20% grade, with a maximum of 23%. Mike Thompson, from the State office, indicated that this road was constructed pre-law and that verbal approval had been given to the operator to leave it as it was. The excessive amount of area which would need be disturbed to bring down the grade to 10% or less would be excessive and more environmentally damaging than its present construction.

717.20 Topsoil Handling and Revegetation

There are two areas on this operation where topsoil has been disturbed since May 3, 1978. One is at the water tank pad where leveling of the hillside was necessary to place the tank. The State Authorities were not contacted prior to disturbing the area. After the pad was built, The State observed the site and gave verbal approval for not salvaging topsoil. Approval was given with the feeling that there was no suitable growth material present for salvage. There was a high percentage of rock content in the soil. A similar situation existed for the sediment pond construction site. No topsoil has been salvaged. All removed material has been dumped on the temporary pad north of the office. The previously stated reason was also given for the lack of topsoil protection in this area. Observation of the stockpile showed a greater percentage of soil to be present than rock. The reason given for this was the use of blasting when excavation took place. In accordance with 717.11 (b), a copy of all current approved plans or other authorizations to operate shall be available for inspection at or near the mine site. Any approvals by the Regulatory Authority should be available in writing for inspection at the operation.

Notice of Violation #79-V-5-11 has been issued by mail in reference to the above-stated topsoil violation.

On May 7, 1979, the State's inspection required revegetation to be done on all disturbed areas in which no further activity will occur. This is to be done during the fall season, 1979. These areas include road banks and slopes along the creek.

Summary

Information contained in this report, except for permit and lease numbers, was obtained from Mr. Joe MacDonald, Mine Safety Engineer for Deer Creek and Mr. Mike Thompson, Utah Oil, Gas, Mining.

Thomas E. Elmer

FOR

GARY FRITZ
RECLAMATION SPECIALIST