

0015

April 10, 1985

TO: Coal File, Inspection and Enforcement File
FROM: Sandy Pruitt, Mining Field Specialist *SP*
RE: Utah Power & Light Company, Deer Creek Mine,
ACT/015/018, #7, Emery County, Utah

DATE: March 20, 1985 and March 21, 1985
TIME: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 Noon and 8:45 a.m.-11:00
a.m., respectively
WEATHER: Fair, Warm
COMPANY OFFICIAL: Larry Guymon
STATE OFFICIAL: Sandy Pruitt
ENFORCEMENT ACTION: None

Compliance With Permanent Performance Standards

UMC 771.19 et al Permits

There have been no modifications to the approved Deer Creek Mine plan during the first quarter of 1985.

UMC 817.13-.15 Casing and Sealing of Underground Openings

Two dog holes into pre-Act mine workings were exposed over winter. The openings are located in the cliff behind the trash bin next to the warehouse/shop. The location of the openings into the pre-Act mine workings was described to Mary Ann Wright, Administrator of the Abandoned Mine Program (AMR). She thought that a member of the AMR staff could inspect the site within the next month. The location of these mine openings and any adjacent mine workings to the north, apparent by scattered timbers and an oxidized spoil pile on the western cliff face above the mine access road should be mapped in the mine permit application in accordance with UMC 783.25(e).

UMC 817.41-.57 Hydrologic Balance

The drainage culverts under the upper mine yard became blocked by ice and sediments over winter. Emery Mining Corporation (EMC) has made arrangements to utilize a sludge pump to remove the obstructions once thawed. Water is ponding in the parking lot as a result of the blocked area drainage system, but runoff flows into the slotted drain and drop culverts at the lower mine yard which drain into the mine sediment pond. Therefore, the runoff control problem is mitigated with this back-up measure, but EMC must maintain the drainage system at the upper yard as soon as the ice melts and weakens the obstructions.

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Once exposed by the recent snowmelt, it is evident that the silt fences installed along the conveyor and mine access road have functioned as intended by trapping sediments before the silt fence to capacity. The silt fences must now be maintained in preparation for spring runoff. The catch basins by the conveyor transfer station have collected fines also. Since the last inspection, the upper basin was maintained. Fines removed from the basin and a stockpile of fines at the transfer station were graded into the pad. This only provides a source for sedimentation of the catch basin. Larry Guymon acknowledged this fact and said that coal fines were supposed to be disposed of with the mine waste rock or replaced to the coal stockpiles. The catch basin along the access road is full of sediments and should be maintained.

The undisturbed area drainage diversion along the C1 conveyor still flowed over the transfer station pad to the catch basin along the road as requested during the last inspection. At that time, it was requested that EMC modify the approved plans in such a manner to prevent impacts to the undisturbed drainage ditch by coal fines blown off the conveyor where it is turned over before the transfer station, refer to letter dated March 12, 1985. In response to the problem, Larry Guymon discussed plans to dig the diversion ditch deeper and raise the berm up to the silt fence along the rotated section of conveyor. EMC would also secure metal plates to extend the conveyor cover and funnel coal fines shaken off the belt onto the side of the berm inside of the disturbed area drainage boundaries. This is a slight improvement to the approved drainage control plans and should adequately address the problem.

Utah Power & Light Company (UP&L) submitted fourth quarter water monitoring data on April 2, 1985. Monitoring data examined at the EMC office was current as of January 11, 1985 for surface waters and February 20, 1985 for mine discharge data.

UMC 817.111-.117 Revegetation

Due to time constraints with the short seeding season, it is unlikely that EMC will be able to seed disturbed areas at the Deer Creek Mine this spring. Their seeding contractor is presently working at the Des-Bee-Dove Mine complex. The approved steep slope seeding method is labor

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intensive. Due to the extensive areas needing revegetation at all of the UP&L mines, EMC is considering changing methods and hydromulching with a tactifier, for example, instead of securing netting and mulch to the steep slope areas.

UMC 817.121-.126 Subsidence Control

Room and pillar mining is currently underway at 9E entries with longwall mining in Sections 4L and 4R. Entries are being developed for a longwall panel off Section 3W.

UP&L submitted the 1984 subsidence monitoring report on April 2, 1985. Subsidence, first reported in 1981, is continuing up to a maximum 23 feet above section 9E of the Deer Creek mine and Wilberg 1st R. Pillar extraction was completed in the Deer Creek mine section in 1981 and in Wilberg 1st R in June, 1984. The extent of this subsidence is influenced by burned coal in both Hiawatha and Blind Canyon seams and by the Deer Creek Fault plane.

Subsidence above the Deer Creek 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th longwall panels and the underlying Wilberg 6th, 7th, 10th, 11th and 12th longwall panels is occurring. The maximum subsidence reported is 11 feet, centered over the Deer Creek 6th E and Wilberg 6th and 7th E longwall panels. No visible surface disturbances were reported.

The 1st North section of the Deer Creek mine, mined out in 1978, is surrounded by burned coal. Subsidence, up to 3 feet, has stabilized since 1983. An adjacent burned coal area has also subsided. Surface fracturing is apparent.

New subsidence was detected over the Deer Creek 2nd through 5th R longwall panels. The maximum subsidence detected since mining was completed in 1984 is 5 feet centered over the 3rd R panel. No visible surface disturbances were reported. New subsidence, up to 4 feet, was also detected over the Deer Creek 2nd through 5th L longwall panels. No surface impacts are reported. UP&L provided a comparison of fluctuations in

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spring flow to variations in precipitation for several springs located on East Mountain above the Right and Left longwall panel sections that demonstrate no adverse impacts related to mining.

btb

cc: Larry Guymon
Donna Griffin
Joe Helfrich
John Whitehead

Statistics:

See Hidden Valley Mine memo dated April 10, 1985.
0379R-3-6