



United States Department of the Interior
OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
Reclamation and Enforcement
POST OFFICE BLDG. RM. 270
1823 STOUT STREET
DENVER, COLORADO 80202

May 18, 1979

Mr. Ron Daniels
Co-Ordinator of Mine Land Dev.
Div. of Oil and Gas
Dept. fo Nat. rEsources
1588 N. West Temple
Salt Lake City, Ut. 84116

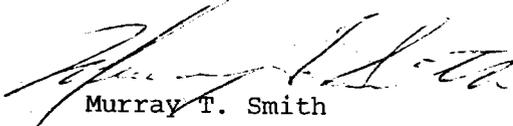


Dear Ron:

Enclosed please find copies of on-site inspection reports. The inspections were conducted within the State of Utah during the period of April 18, 1979

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

Sincerely,


Murray T. Smith
Federal Lands Coordinator

UTAH POWER & LIGHT COMPANIES
AMERICAN COAL CO. - WILBERG COAL MINE
P.O. BOX 899
Salt Lake City, Utah 84110



DATE: 18 April 79
TIME: 10:30 a.m.
WEATHER: Cloudy and cold
COUNTY & STATE: Emery County, Utah
COMPANY OFFICIALS: Karl Gurr, Dick Northrup, Mike Wagon
STATE OFFICIAL: Mike Thompson
OSM OFFICIALS: Tom Ehmett, Ray Lewis, Gary Fritz
UTAH PERMIT: #ACT-015/018
MSHA NUMBER: 42-00080

GENERAL COMMENTS

This is one of the West's largest producing underground mines which is located at the end of the steep, nearby vertical box canyon called Grims Wash. Between one and a half to two point four million tons of federal coal is extracted from the 14 to 16 foot Hiawatha seam for shipment to the Huntington power plant. The mine office is recessed in the canyon wall at the upper pad.

COMPLIANCE WITH INTERIM REGULATIONS

717.11 Copies of Available Permits

All copies of the applicable permits were located at the Huntington office of the American Coal Company. The water discharge permit and water quality sampling reports were also there.

717.12 Signs & Markers

All required signs were posted.

717.14 Backfilling & Grading

A series of benches have been built for the surface facilities that include the portals, rail spur, sediment ponds and coal silo load out. The vertical canyon walls had to be cut back to allow access to the three benches. The road and pads are being built by an independent contractor that is using grade and an elaborate system of large diversion culverts to control runoff from the area. The access road is being brought up to grade for blacktopping sometime in the near future. Several cuts were unstable and drainage was not diverted away from the area because of the limited accessibility above the site. A

parking lot ½ mile below the portals was being used by the construction company and American Coal for temporary storage until one of the pads was completed.

717.15 Disposal of Excess Rocks and Earth Materials on the Surface Area

No excess rock or earth materials are being produced at this mine because of the size and quality of the Hiawatha seam.

717.17 Protection of the Hydrologic System

A drainage system designed for a 50 year event has two seventy two inch diversion culverts set in the right and left forks of Grims Wash to catch drainage above the mine site. The culverts converge under the coal storage pad and a ninety inch culvert carries the combined flow of both forks to a point below the surface facilities. A pipe that is used to pump directly from the mine empties into the left drainage culvert. The discharge meets effluent standards according to Mr. Gurr. The right drainage culvert was not installed properly because runoff from above the affected area had eroded soil away from the entrance. This culvert is also below a main and auxiliary fan pad that was not graded properly so drainage did flow into the culvert that is designed to catch runoff from above the disturbed area. A notice of violation was issued for the unchecked offsite drainage.

The sediment ponds are being built back to back in a narrow channel on the lower pad. They were designed for a ten year, twenty four storm event. Two thirty-six inch inlets have been put in place but the outlet system and one embankment was still being built.



THOMAS E. EHMETT
RECLAMATION SPECIALIST