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United States Department of the Interior
OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
Reclamation and Enforcement
[Redacted] Brooks Towers
1020-15th Street
DENVER, COLORADO 80202

*Rt to Joe & Dong
Then fill in
[Signature]*

MARCH 3, 1980

RECEIVED

MAR 6 1980

DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

MR. RON DANIELS
COORDINATOR OF MINED LAND DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
1588 WEST NORTH TEMPLE
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84116

#7

Dear MR. DANIELS:

Enclosed please find copies of on-site inspection reports. The inspections were conducted within COTTONWOOD PORTAL EXPLORATION during the period of JANUARY 9, 1980.

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

Sincerely,

[Handwritten Signature]

Murray T. Smith
Chief, Division of Inspection & Enforcement

REGION V ON-SITE INSPECTION REPORT

UTAH POWER & LIGHT COMPANY
COTTONWOOD PORTAL EXPLORATION
P.O. Box 899
Salt Lake City, Utah 84110

DATE: January 9, 1980
TIME: 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
WEATHER: Cold and snowing
COUNTY & STATE: Emery County, Utah
COMPANY OFFICIALS: Larry Guyman and Dick Jones
STATE OFFICIALS: Joe Helfrich and Doug Stewart
OSM OFFICIALS: Ron Gregg and Vernon Maldonado

GENERAL COMMENTS

The main coal seam dips to the west. A smaller coal seam has been identified above the main coal seam. The small seam is not mineable, because it is too thin. About four and one-half acres have been disturbed at this site.

We approached Mr. Larry Guyman with various questions, regarding why "exploration" was being conducted by excavation, blasting, and utilizing dozers instead of using more conventional methods such as drilling. In essence, Mr. Guyman, because of his past experience, felt that drilling inadequately describes a coal seam, and drilling fails to prove that a strong building foundation exists. Also, he said due to the expense and environmental damage inherent to drilling operations, the company chose not to do any drilling. Mr. Guyman said that at Des-Bee-Dove (Church) and Deer Creek Mines, the drill logs showed no rock; however, the job was done entirely in rock. Because of their previous bad experiences, the company wanted to take an actual firsthand look at the material present at the Cottonwood Portal site.

Cottonwood Portal Excavation site is the first "exploratory" work of this type, that Utah Power & Light Company (UP&L) has done in the area. The Wilburg and Deer Creek mines were in existence when UP&L purchased the property.

Company officials said the use of explosives and blasting has ceased. The areas upon which such activities have occurred were undergoing cleanup operations during our inspection. Areas exposed to surface effects of blasting and explosives, include the outcrop area of the bench (which contours along the hillside), the lower previously undisturbed area adjacent to the access road, the access road, both banks of the creek, and the Cottonwood Creek channel itself.

The cleanup operation entailed the retrieval of flyrock and boulders from the area of the coal outcrop to and including the opposite bank of the creek. An attempt was also being made to recover the large amount of rock and soil that was pushed into Cottonwood Creek. This issue was referenced to in the December 18, 1979 Utah State report, from Mr. James W. Smith. The extent of

damages incurred to Cottonwood Creek have not yet been determined. It was visually evident that substantial damage had been inflicted upon trees, undisturbed land, and the stream. Damages were evidenced by the presence of broken trees with scraped bark, rocks and boulders in the stream, and excess spoil material on the downslope. 7

During our inspection, the extent of spoil material on the downslope could not be adequately assessed due to snow cover. The snow cover made it impossible to follow runoff flow locations and drainages. The adequacy of the drainage system has not yet been determined, as no runoff was present that day.

The mining company official said the exploration plan called for the salvage of 5,000 yards of topsoil, but that 7,000 - 8,000 yards were collected.

Numerous springs had been seeping through the formations in and around the coal vein. This was evidenced by ice coursing down from the coal vein, across the pad area, and on the downslope.

Mr. Guyman made reference to cracks in the overburden near the planned portal location. Mr. Guyman said these cracks will necessitate installation of a steel arch for support. However, he added that there was a good strong top to facilitate the implementation of longwall mining method. He commented that no further data is planned to be gathered from the activity here.

No soil samples were taken at the Cottonwood site, so there has been no certified chemical and physical identification of topsoil and overburden horizons.

Tom Schultz, Hydrologist for OSM Division of Technical Analysis and Research, made reference to runoff in his report. His latter observation of the area showed that diversions for surface runoff were installed. His report also commented that the company officials stated no further explorative work was going to be done at the site.



RON GREGG
RECLAMATION SPECIALIST