

Document Information Form

Mine Number: C1015/019

File Name: Internal

To: DOGM

From:

Person N/A

Company N/A

Date Sent: FEBRUARY 24, 1982.

Explanation:

INSPECTION MEMO TO COAL FILE.

cc:

File in: C1015, 019, Internal

- Refer to:
- Confidential
 - Shelf
 - Expandable

Date _____ For additional information

February 24, 1982

Inspection Memo
to Coal File:

RE: Utah Power & Light Company
Wilberg Mine
ACT/015/018-B
Emery County, Utah

The above mentioned operation was given partial inspection on February 9, 1982, by Joe Helfrich and Jean Doutré from the Division, Tom Ehmett and Jodie Merriman from the Office of Surface Mining. State and Federal inspectors were accompanied by Karry Larsen, a surveyor from the Emery Mining Corporation. The purpose of the inspection was to verify the existence of mine water discharge from the Wilberg breakouts located in Miller Canyon, a small side canyon of Cottonwood Canyon located approximately one half to one mile, below the proposed Cottonwood Portal area.

STATEMENT OF FACT:

1. Steve Robison and Biologist, name unknown, in the Ferron Ranger District of the Manti LaSal National Forest, inspected the three Wilberg breakouts sometime during the first week, of February 1982. February 10, 1982, Steve Robison, Ferron Ranger District, Manti LaSal National Forest, contacted the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining informing Jim Smith, Coordinator of Mined Land Development, of mine water discharge at the Miller Canyon breakout. Jodie Merriman, (Inspector Region V, OSM, Albuquerque), contacted Wayne Hedberg, Division Hydrologist, informing Mr. Hedberg of Steve Robison's call to OSM concerning the mine water discharge at the Miller Canyon breakout. Pursuant to Mr. Robison's phone conversation with Tom Ehmett, (head of Inspection and Enforcement, OSM, Region V, Albuquerque), Mr. Ehmett and Miss Merriman requested a joint inspection of the Miller Canyon breakouts with a member from the inspection staff, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining. Chris Shingleton, (Mine Engineer for Utah Power & Light), was also contacted approximately the same day by Mr. Robison and informed of the mine water discharge at the Miller Canyon breakout.

PREVIOUS HISTORY:

Date: 8-22-80

Transaction: Utah Power & Light's request to USGS to consider Miller Canyon breakout as a minor modification

Contacts: John Bootle to Jackson W. Moffitt.

Date: 8-27-80

Transaction: USGS response to Utah Power & Light depicting no environmental assessment required by the USGS.

Contacts: Jackson W. Moffitt to John Bootle

File in:

- Confidential
- Shelf
- Expandable

Refer to Record No. 0048 Date _____

In C/ 015, 019, Internal

For additional information

Date: 11-14-80
Transaction: Forest Service request for information concerning the Wilberg breakout located in Miller Canyon.
Contacts: John Niebergall to Forest Supervisor, Reid C. Christensen.

Date: 6-18-81
Transaction: Utah Power & Light's response to the Forest Service questions raised by Mr. Niebergall on 11-14-80.
Contacts: Merrill Heward to John Nadolski

Date: 8-18-81
Transaction: Documentation of a finding of no significant impact completed by the Forest Service.
Contacts: John Niebergall and Reid Christensen.

Date: 8-18-81
Transaction: Forest Service approval to OSM concerning Miller Canyon breakouts
Contacts: Reid Christensen to John Nadolski

Date: 9-4-81
Transaction: OSM approval of Miller Canyon breakouts
Contacts: Don Crane to Jim Smith

Date: 9-14-81
Transaction: Division approval of Miller Canyon breakouts
Contact: Jim Smith to Merrill Heward

Date: 11-4-81
Transaction: Approximate date of Miller Canyon breakouts.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Access to the Miller Canyon breakout can be obtained by traveling west from Orangeville through Straight Canyon to the East Mountain turn-off then traveling north to the Forest Service boundary markers.

As one is standing at the Forest Service boundary where it crosses the Cottonwood Creek road, the portals are located approximately one mile east of the Cottonwood Creek road along the north side of Miller Canyon in T17S, R7E, Sec 30 of USGS quad map, Mahogany Point, Utah.

At present there are 3 breakout entries located in Miller Canyon encompassing a horizontal distance of approximately 150-200 feet. The east portal showed no evidence of mine water discharge. The center portal showed approximately 1-2 gpm mine water discharge underneath an ice pack varying in depth from 0 to 1 foot. The western portal showed evidence of previous mine water discharge in the form of ice pack. There was no water discharging during the time of the inspection from that portal. There was approximately 2 feet of standing water located in both the center and western portals. During the inspection, State and Federal inspectors and Karry Larsen, (surveyor for the Emery Mining Corporation), were met by the pump test foreman of the Wilberg Mine. The foreman indicated that there had been previous power failures which probably resulted in the mine water discharge as there were two sump pumps located approximately 100 foot underground from the breakouts. The mine water discharge from the two portals was cascading over a sandstone face for approximately 100 to 150 feet before entering the bottom of the intermittent stream channel of Miller Canyon.

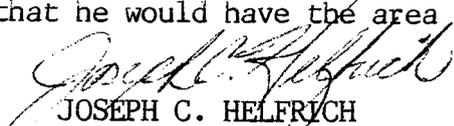
State and Federal inspectors returned to Ferron, Utah and met with Mr. Robison of the Ferron Ranger District, Manti LaSal National Forest. At that time, Mr. Robison's only concern, that he would disclose, was the fact that there may be some possibility of slope failure below the portals if mine water discharge were to continue.

Inspectors returned to Huntington and met with Larry Guymon, (engineer for the Emery Mining Company), where Mr. Guymon contacted Chris Shingleton, (Engineer for Utah Power & Light Company), to determine if, in fact, any monitoring of the discharge had been conducted or if the EPA had been contacted in view of permitting additional points of discharge for the Wilberg mine. Mr. Shingleton indicated that no action to resolve the issue by contacting other federal agencies or monitoring had been taken since the notification of mine water discharge to Utah Power & Light Company by the Forest Service on approximately February 10, 1982. Mr. Guymon was issued Violation No. 82-1-1-1 for failure to operate in accordance with approved plan, specifically stipulation No. 1 set forth in Division approval granted in September 14, 1981, stating that no water may be discharged from any of the openings associated with this breakout. The violation was issued under UMC Sec 771.19. Remedial action required was to stop mine water discharge from the Wilberg breakouts or obtain a permit for point source discharge and monitor as required. Time for abatement was 30 days, no later than March 19, 1982. Larry Guymon contacted Sandy Pruitt, inspector for the Division, on February 22, 1982, at approximately 2:53 p.m., indicating that there was no longer mine water discharge from the Miller Canyon breakouts.

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In a phone conversation between Joe Helfrich and Larry Guymon on February 24, 1982, Mr. Guymon indicated that in addition to pumping the mine water, located near the breakouts, back through the mine to the Wilberg treatment facility, cinder block dikes would be installed in each of the three portals. Mr. Guymon also indicated that additional underground surveying demonstrated that the coal seam dipped to the northeast with the exception of approximately the last 150 feet, before the outcrop in Miller Canyon, thus creating a ponding effect underground near the breakout.

Due to the amount of snow on the ground during the time of the inspection, it could not be accurately determined if there was, in fact, any rock or mine waste pushed out of the mine openings into another canyon. It did not appear as such, although Mr. Guymon commented that he would have the area inspected for compliance with that stipulation.


JOSEPH C. HELFRICH
FIELD SUPERVISOR

JCH:vp

cc: Larry Guymon, Emery Mining Corporation
Chris Shingleton, Utah Power & Light
Tom Ehmett, OSM, Albuquerque
Inspection Staff

Statistics:

See Trail Canyon memo dated February 24, 1982
Grant: A & E