

ACT/OW/1019

Mine f/b
J. Whitehead
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United States Department of the Interior
OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
Reclamation and Enforcement
BROOKS TOWERS
1020 15TH STREET
DENVER, COLORADO 80202

February 12, 1987

RECEIVED
FEB 20 1987

Mr. Lowell P. Braxton
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
355 W. North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180

DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

Dear Mr. Braxton:

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Western Field Operations (OSMRE/WFO), has compiled Federal comments for the mid-term review of the Wilberg mine permit no. UT-0001. These comments are a composite of those provided by the Albuquerque Field Office and the Division of Federal Programs. To date, no comments have been received from the Bureau of Land Management ((Moab District), U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service or U. S. Forest Service (Manti-LaSal National Forest). When comments of other Federal agencies are received, they will be forwarded to your office. Our comments are as follows:

1. The operator has failed to meet total dissolved solids effluent limitations since the fourth quarter of 1985. To prevent continued discharges of effluent exceeding standards, the operator has deviated from the approved hydrologic control plan by pumping ponded water from the sediment pond into a vacant waste rock disposal cell. The operator must address through a revised hydrologic control plan both current and future measures to ensure compliance with the performance standards.
2. Condition No. 5 of Permit UT-0001 requires an annual report on subsidence monitoring. The report for 1984 was received April, 1985. No report was located for 1985. Timely submittal of reports is needed.
3. The volume of material disposed in the waste rock disposal cells has greatly exceeded the operator's original estimates. The disposal site is approximately two-thirds completed with half the permit term remaining. It appears the operator needs to modify the approved waste rock disposal plan to identify alternative disposal sites. This problem is of concern also because available waste disposal area is being used for water storage (see comment no. 1 above).
4. Surface runoff control facilities were modified at the Cottonwood Portal in 1986. It appears these modifications were not approved. The operators need to submit all modifications for approval.
5. Remedial measures were taken to control surface runoff from the main haulroad below the tipple/loadout area as the result of enforcement actions. A site visit to examine the effectiveness of these measures is appropriate.

We are planning to meet at your offices on February 24, 1987 at 1:00 p.m., to discuss the above comments. Representatives from the Albuquerque Field Office and Division of Federal Programs will attend. We also plan a field visit at the Wilberg mine on February 25, 1987 and request your staff accompany us on this visit.

If you have any questions regarding our plans, please contact Dave Costain or Richard Holbrook at (303) 844-2451.

Sincerely,

M I Granberg

acting

Ranvir Singh, Chief
Federal Lands Branch

cc: AFO

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