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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

Norman H. Bangerter

Governor

Dee C. Hansen

Executive Director

Dianne R. Nielson, Ph.D.

Division Director

355 West North Temple

3 Triad Center, Suite 350

Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203

801-538-5340

August 22, 1989

Mr. Dan Guy, Manager
Permitting, Compliance and Services
Beaver Creek Coal Company
P. O. Box 1378
Price, Utah 84501

Dear Mr. Guy:

Re: Coal Fines Accumulation in Cottonwood Creek, Beaver Creek
Coal Company, Trail Mountain #9 Mine, ACT/015/009, and Utah
Power and Light Company, Cottonwood/Wilberg Mine,
ACT/015/019, Folder #2, Emery County, Utah

Attached is correspondence related to coal fines accumulations in Cottonwood Creek. Please be aware that, in the future, the Division will be closely monitoring Cottonwood Creek to ensure that additional coal fines do not accumulate.

Sincerely,

Richard V. Smith

Richard V. Smith
Permit Supervisor

djh

Attachments

cc: J. Niebergall, USFS, Ferron
W. Warmack, DOGM, PFO
L. Braxton, DOGM

AT8/89



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STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES
Oil, Gas & Mining

RECEIVED
AUG 21 1989

Norman H. Bangertter, Governor
Dee C. Hansen, Executive Director
Dianne R. Nielson, Ph.D., Division Director

355 W. North Temple • 3 Triad Center • Suite 350 • Salt Lake City, UT 84143 • 801-538-5340
DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

August 18, 1989

TO: RICK SMITH, PERMIT SUPERVISOR

FROM: BILL WARMACK, RECLAMATION SPECIALIST *WAW*

RE: COAL FINES ACCUMULATION IN COTTONWOOD CREEK, BEAVER CREEK COAL COMPANY (BCCC), TRAIL MOUNTAIN #9 MINE, ACT/015/009, FOLDER #2, EMERY COUNTY, UTAH.

SYNOPSIS/ANALYSIS

As a followup to my July 19, 1989 memo, several coal fine sources were observed and noted during a recent partial inspection at Trail Mountain #9 Mine (August 17, 1989). The amount of coal fines and particle size varied along each side of the Cottonwood Canyon Road; no measurable concentrations were located.

Rain showers preceeded this inspection which produced sediment deposition in various locations. Since the ground was moist, coal fines were very visible. Areas that have a potential to supply a source of coal fines to Cottonwood Creek are as follows:

1. BCCC's coal stockpiles and truck loadout. Coal fines generated by the loading and storage of coal are, for the most part, large size particles. Once airborne, these particles would rapidly drop out in the general vicinity of their origination.
2. BCCC's lower gate (truck exit). Fines observed in this immediate area and along the Canyon Road just outside of the gate, were minute dust particles which have become pulverized by the trucks. This material would have a high tendency to become airborne and stay in suspension for some time. Drainage at and below the lower gate reports to the sediment pond.
3. Utah Power & Light's (UP&L) Cottonwood Fan Portal/Old Johnson Mine. Several locations of exposed coal and coal/soil mixtures were noticeable along the eastern side of the Canyon Road. Major contributors of coal appeared to be the following sources:
 1. North of and adjacent to the UP&L subsoil storage pile (coal rider seams).

2. Creek flow has dropped off considerably. The creek supplies water to a pump which is located in the bypass culvert inlet above the office building. Water was supplied to the system, but not at a constant head.
3. Coal trucks leaving the property did churn up excessive amounts of dust. During this observation, canyon winds were blowing uphill and had a tendency to direct the coal dust onto Utah Power and Light's (UP&L) Cottonwood Fan Portal site. The amount of coal fines on UP&L's property was not measurable, although evident.
4. At least four culvert inlets are located along the Canyon road that directly allow the migration of coal fines into the creek since they join with the bypass culvert.
5. Moisture in the coal piles virtually eliminated any dust generation during loading. Dust was generated by the loader but appeared to be contained within the immediate area.
6. At the junction of State Highway 29 and the Cottonwood Canyon Road (approximately 3.5 miles below the mine), coal fines were not observed in the creek channel.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The dust problem was discussed with Mr. Killpack and further relayed to Jay Marshall (BCCC). Based upon my observations, I recommend the following remedial actions:

1. Complete the installation of the sprinkler system to the lower gate and install heads that will reach a larger area.
2. Create a basin with sandbags, etc., at the bypass culvert inlet so that the pump can supply a consistent head and flow to the system.
3. Monitor the loadout area and apply water as necessary. If possible, set the system on an automatic timer. Loadout area should be moist, but not saturated, to prevent caking of fines on truck tires.
4. Monitor dust migration onto UP&L's property and culvert inlets along the Canyon Road. If coal fines accumulate, consideration should be given to other supportive measures (ie, slats for the chain link fence).

2. UP&L exposed coal seam (highwall).
3. Rider coal seams at the southern end of UP&L's property adjacent to the road.

Coal observed in the road drainage ditch varied from pin-head to nugget and lump size. Various amounts of coal was seen in the slopes and revegetated areas. All of the drainage from the eastern side of the Canyon ultimately drains to Cottonwood Creek via culverts.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Coal fines were noticed in Cottonwood Creek, and along the eastern and western sides of the Canyon Road. However, due to the size of particles and amount of exposed coal on UP&L's property, coal accumulations (fugitive dust) cannot be totally attributed to BCCC's operations. In conjunction with my recommendations in the July 19 memo, I further recommend the following:

1. Inform UP&L of the situation and the concerns brought about by Mr. Niebergall of the Manti-LaSal Forest Service. Alternate sediment controls (rock gabions) should be cleaned as often as possible to ensure that coal and coal fines are deposited before entering the drainage culverts and ultimately Cottonwood Creek.

c.c. PFO

Bill W.

cc: R. Smith, J. Helfrich

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Manti-LaSal National Forest
Ferron Ranger District

P.O. Box 310
Ferron, Utah 84523

Reply to: 2820

Date: June 28, 1989

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JUL 03 1989

DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

State of Utah
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining
ATTN: Mr. Lowell Braxton
355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203

Dear Mr. Braxton,

I am writing concerning the excessive amount of coal dust along the Cottonwood Canyon Road below Beaver Creek Coal's Trail Mountain Mine. This coal dust may affect water quality in Cottonwood Creek, which is the primary water source for the towns of Orangeville and Castle Dale.

Beaver Creek Coal has installed a sprinkling system around the coal storage and loading area, but it is apparently insufficient to keep the coal wet or is not used frequently enough. Please notify Beaver Creek Coal so they may correct this problem.

Please contact Dale Harber or myself at (801) 384-2372 if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,



JOHN NIEBERGALL
District Ranger