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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

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January 31, 1980

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Mr. Ron Daniels
Coordinator of Mined Land Development
Department of Natural Resources
1588 North West Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

Dear Mr. Daniels:

Enclosed please find copies of on-site inspection reports. The inspections were conducted within Bear Creek Canyon Portal during the period of December 3, 1979.

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

Sincerely,

Murray T. Smith
Chief, Division of Inspection & Enforcement

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FEB 04 1980

DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

REGION V ON-SITE INSPECTION REPORT

CO-OP MINING COMPANY
BEAR CREEK CANYON PORTAL
Box 300
Huntington, Utah 84528

DATE: December 3, 1979
TIME: 4:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.
WEATHER: Cloudy and cold
COUNTY & STATE: Emery County, Utah
TYPE OF INSPECTION: Initial
COMPANY OFFICIAL: Wendell Owen
STATE OFFICIALS: Joe Helfrich, Doug Stewart, and Mike Thompson
OSM OFFICIALS: Gary Fritz, Larry Damrau, and Dennis Winterringer
STATE PERMIT NO: ACT-015-025
MSHA I.D. NO: None (mining not authorized)

GENERAL COMMENTS

The Bear Creek Canyon portal is an illegal underground development operation that was proceeding without an approved Notice of Intent to Commence Mining. The proposed mine is located in Section 25, T16S, R7E, north of Utah Highway 31. The Division of Oil, Gas, & Mining issued Co-op Mining Company a Cessation Order and Show Cause Order for this operation on November 27, 1979. The Order to cease mining will not be lifted until the company revises its mining plan to meet Utah's interim mining standards.

A mining plan was filed on the fee owned land with the Division on February 14, 1979. Since that time the Division has requested additional information and revisions of the pending plan. After the mining plan has been completed, a notice will be posted in a local newspaper for thirty days for public comment. If there are no objections to the proposal, the company will receive a permit to mine.

The operation is located in an old inactive mining area on a steep south facing slope. Two benches have been pushed out for access and development of the portal area. The lower bench is about 130 x 190 feet. The next bench is smaller in dimension and located in the outcrop. Additional dirt was pushed down on this bench from above.

Topsoil or selected overburden materials have not been removed as a separate operation from the areas that were disturbed. The vegetation was cut down on the level areas but it was removed only if it was merchantable.

The soil strata that was exposed and is going to be affected should be tested and removed in sufficient quantities for redistribution before more mining is allowed. The acceptable soil medium should also be stored in a separate location during the mining operation.

There was no apparent concern on the company's behalf for runoff on sediment control. The drainage from the disturbed area was not being passed through a sediment pond nor was there any attempt to divert any of the runoff.

There is also some concern that the company may be affecting a portion of the Castle Valley's potable water supply. According to Mike Thompson, Inspector for the Division of Oil, Gas, & Mining, the aquifer in question is located in the Starpoint Sandstone. The seam of coal that is proposed to be removed is above this aquifer. Mr. Thompson said that the company has not submitted sufficient data in their mining plan to disprove the claim that they will not affect the aquifer. Additional information has been requested.


GARY L. FRITZ
RECLAMATION SPECIALIST