

December 22, 1982

Inspection Memo  
to Coal File:

#17  
RE: Co-op Mining Company  
Bear Creek Canyon Mine  
ACT/015/025  
Emery County, Utah

DATE: December 14 - 16, 1982  
TIME: 14th - 12:30 to 4:00 P.M.  
15th - 10:30 to 11:00 A.M.  
16th - 8:30 A.M. to 10:15 A.M. and 1:30 - 3:00 P.M.  
WEATHER: Clear and cool  
COMPANY OFFICIALS: Dennis White  
STATE OFFICIALS: John Whitehead, Joe Helfrich  
ENFORCEMENT ACTION: NOV #N82-5-2-10

Compliance With Permanent Performance Standards

771 et al Permits

No permits or associated paperwork was reviewed during the inspection. On all three of the days which the inspection was conducted, Mr Wendell Owen, the only individual with the Co-op Mining Company which has access to the paperwork, was out of town. Mr. Dennis White was advised that inspectors must have access to the appropriate paperwork at times during which inspections are being conducted. This may necessitate a second individual or a backup system to enable inspectors access to review paperwork when Mr. Owen is out of town. During future inspections access problems to the permits and associated paperwork may result in obstruction to enforcement violations.

The uppermost storage pad area was declared off limits in a letter dated October 5, 1982 from Carolyn Driscoll of the Division. During the inspection it was noted that activity had taken place on the uppermost pad and storage of non-coal waste material was currently being undertaken. NOV N82-5-2-10, 1 of 10 was issued for failure to conduct surface coal mining and reclamation activities under permits issued by the Division. Remedial action requested for this NOV was to remove the non-coal waste material from the uppermost pad and place it in the designated storage area for non-coal waste. It was requested that the entrance to the uppermost pad be barricaded to assure no further activity in this area until it is properly permitted. The abatement deadline was thirty days, January 16, 1983.

Approximately 14 shuttle cars were stored off the permit area along the main access haul road approximately 1/4 mile south of the scale house. NOV 2 of 10 was issued for operating without a permit and required removal of all mining machinery from the unpermitted location by January 16, 1983.

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#### 817.11 Signs and Markers

No perimeter markers delineating the permit area were observed during the inspection. Previous inspection memos indicate that some perimeter markers may have been installed in previous years but are no longer visible. Additionally, no mine identification sign was posted at the mine entrance. NOV 3 of 10 was issued for failure to place perimeter markers which clearly mark the perimeter of all areas affected by surface operations or facilities and failure to maintain at the entrance to surface operations and facilities a clearly visible mine identification sign. Remedial action required posting and maintaining perimeter markers and a mine identification sign by January 16, 1983.

#### 817.21 - .25 Topsoil

Topsoil had been removed from the recent scalehouse development, the storage location was on the eastern side of the main access road near the point where Bear Creek passes under the main access road. The status of topsoil protection measures could not be determined due to the amount of snow covering the area. This area will be further examined during subsequent partial inspections to determine if adequate protection measures have been undertaken.

The topsoil pile which is approximately due north of the sediment pond had been impacted recently by a bulldozer. The southern-most edge of the stockpile had been removed in part by the passage of the bulldozer. This area did not have adequate topsoil protection measures to assure compliance with UMC 817.23.

The topsoil pile west and somewhat north of the coal stockpile pad was also being impacted by an inadequately maintained undisturbed diversion channel which allowed water to flow through the northern end of the stockpile. NOV N82-5-2-10, number 5 of 10 was issued for failure to adequately protect topsoil. This NOV covered the two sites previously noted and required that adequate protection measures be implemented with straw dike filters and/or berms. The abatement deadline was thirty days, no later than January 16, 1983.

Portions of the area impacted by mining equipment stored 1/4 mile down from the Scalehouse development site along the main haul road had impacted topsoil which had not been removed, and stockpiled. NOV 4 of 10 was issued for failure to remove, segregate, stockpile and protect topsoil prior to disturbance of areas affected by surface operations. Remedial action required removal of the machinery by January 16, 1983.

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817.41 - .52 Hydrologic Balance

Concern was expressed to the operator about erosion occurring on-site primarily on the downslopes below pads where disturbed area runoff was not being conveyed in a proper fashion to avoid erosion. This situation existed most notably on the downslope below and to the southwest of the substation which is adjacent to the portal area and also existed on the downslope below the main coal stockpile pad. NOV 7 of 10 was issued for failure to maintain sediment control measures, so as to minimize erosion. Portions of the operation named were the downslope from the crushing and sizing plant pad, downslope from the stockpile pad, downslope from the proposed bathhouse pad, and downslope from between the portal pad and the crushing and sizing pad. Remedial action required was to adequately convey undisturbed drainage and disturbed drainage from the downslopes to the extent possible. This may require berms along the edge of the pad areas and some regrading and diversion ditch installation to assure proper conveyance. Time for abatement given was thirty days, no later than January 16, 1983.

The culvert which has been approved by the Division for installation in the upper pad area did not appear to have been installed at the date of this inspection.

The section of Bear Creek just south and adjacent to the construction activities which occurred in conjunction with the settling pond at the scale house site had been blocked by large boulders which had been pushed in the creek. NOV 6 of 10 was issued for failure to conduct underground mining activities so as to minimize changes in the hydrologic balance, also the diversion of a perennial stream without Division approval. Remedial action required included removal of all rocks, boulders, soil and other material from the stream channel that was placed as a result of construction activity in that area. Time for abatement was thirty days, no later than January 16, 1983.

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The area which had been impacted by placement of the mining machinery, approximately 1/4 mile south of the scale house along the main access road, was without proper drainage controls. NOV 8 of 10 was issued for failure to conduct underground coal mining activities so as to minimize changes to the hydrologic balance. Remedial action required removal of mining equipment and machinery from the unpermitted storage location no later than January 16, 1983.

The disturbed area diversion ditch which runs from the main access haul road to the upper sediment pond (the ditch resides southeast of the pad) was in need of maintenance. Flow had left the disturbed area diversion ditch and entered an undisturbed ditch which had conveyed it down to Bear Creek. NOV 9 of 10 was issued for failure to maintain diversions in a manner which prevents additional contribution of suspended solids to streamflow. Remedial action required maintaining diversions in a manner which prevents additional contributions of suspended solids to streamflow. Time for abatement was thirty days, January 16, 1983.

The catch basin south of the scalehouse site which had been constructed to treat runoff from the scalehouse area was inoperative at the time of the inspection. There were no inlets or diversions leading to the pond. NOV 10 of 10 was issued for failure to construct sediment control measures which prevent additional contributions of sediment to runoff outside the permit area. The remedial action required construction of diversions and inlets to the catch basin so as to pass all surface drainage from the undisturbed area to the pond. Time for abatement was set for thirty days, no later than January 16, 1983. During the inspection the operator did uncover a culvert which crossed under the main access haul road and will drain part of the scale house area into the catch basin once final grade is achieved.

Two septic tanks, one associated with the proposed bathhouse pad and one associated with the scalehouse trailer were being installed at the time of the inspection. In addition, a water storage tank was in place but not operational above the proposed bathhouse pad area. Inspectors could not determine if this activity had been properly permitted due to lack of access to the permits associated with Bear Creek.

An undisturbed diversion ditch coming off the coal crushing and sizing pad was improperly maintained and was routing flow into a topsoil stockpile (see NOV 5 of 10). This ditch will require sufficient measures on the part of the operator to assure that undisturbed drainage is properly routed to the undisturbed culvert inlet on the western side of the coal stockpile pad. UMC 817.43 requires permanent diversions to safely pass a ten year precipitation event.

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817.89 Disposal of Non-Coal Waste

Non-coal waste in the form of emptied hydraulic fluid cans and gear lube cans have been deposited on the uppermost storage pad. This area was not properly permitted and had been declared off limits in a letter from Carolyn Driscoll of the Division (see letter of October 5, 1982). This material was the subject of NOV 1 of 10.

*John J. Whitehead*  
JOHN J. WHITEHEAD  
FIELD SPECIALIST

JJW/lm

cc: Tom Ehmett, OSM  
Joe Helfrich, DOGM  
Everett Hooper, DOGM  
Wendell Owen, Co-op Mining Company  
Dennis White, Co-op Mining Company

Statistics:

Vehicle: EX #70921 - 550 miles  
Per Diem: 2 persons X 2 days, 10 hours = \$191.12  
Grant: A & E