

January 5, 1983

Inspection Memo
to Coal File:

#7

RE: Co-op Mining Company
Bear Creek Canyon Mine
ACT/015/025
Emery County, Utah
NOV 82-5-2-10

A partial inspection was performed on December 20, 1982 by John Whitehead of the Division accompanied by Dennis White of Co-op Mining Company. The purpose of the inspection was to follow-up on the NOV's issued during the inspection of December 16, 1982 and to meet with Mr. Owens to explain any questions he might have on the violations due to the fact that he was out of town during the inspection of December 14-16. Mr. Owen was not available at the minesite during the inspection.

Partial remedial action had been taken on several of the NOV's issued on the previous inspection. A mine identification sign for the Bear Creek Canyon operation had been propped up and was visible by persons entering the permit area. This addressed a portion of the remedial action required for NOV #3 of 10. A more permanent installation of the identification sign will be undertaken, according to Mr. White, at a time when the construction activities associated with the scalehouse and the catchment basin are completed.

Some effort had been undertaken by the operator to, in part, abate violation #5 of 10 by rediverting the undisturbed drainage from the coal sizing pad away from the topsoil pile northwest of the coal stockpile pad. The adequacy of the efforts undertaken were questionable in light of the requirement to pass a 10-year, 24-hour event as noted in UMC 817.43.

Abatement action for #6 of 10 had, for the most part, been undertaken to remove the rocks, boulders and material placed in the Bear Creek stream channel as a result of the construction activity near the scalehouse. The large boulders and rocks had been removed from the creek bed at the time of this inspection.

During the course of this inspection, water was observed flowing from the area adjacent to the fan underneath an inadequately maintained berm and into a 10-12 inch rill on the downslope below the fan area further constituting evidence that excessive erosion is occurring as noted in NOV #7 of 10.

Disturbed area drainage was flowing in the diversion ditch noted in NOV #9 of 10. The disturbed area drainage was observed leaving the permit area and was sampled for suspended sediments, metals and oil and grease. During the inspection, the operator did construct a temporary berm to prevent the disturbed area drainage from leaving the permit area. This berm probably would be adequate only to last a few days.

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Some work had been done to implement drainage controls on the diversions and inlets leading to the catchment basins located just southeast of the scalehouse area. The work for the drainage control will not be completed for a period of two to three weeks according to Mr. White based on construction needs to raise the elevation of portions of the road area associated with the scalehouse. The inlets and diversions to the catch basin were not completely functional at the time of the inspection.

During the inspection, Mr. White indicated that Co-op Mining Company did intend to widen the road from the switchback near the Bear Creek Canyon stream bed up to the portal and fan areas. The operator is advised to assure that this activity is in conjunction with the approved plan for the Bear Creek Canyon mining operation.



JOHN J. WHITHEAD
FIELD SPECIALIST

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

JJW/btb

Statistics:

Vehicle: #EX 66853--299 miles
Per Diem: None
Grant: A & E