

January 28, 1983

Memo to Coal File:

#7

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

On January 25, 1983 John Whitehead and Joe Helfrich of the Division performed a partial inspection of the above noted mine. Repeated efforts to contact someone in charge at the minesite were unsuccessful, therefore the inspectors performed the inspection unaccompanied. The primary purpose of the inspection was to follow up on abatement measures taken pursuant to NOV N82-5-2-10.

A large portion of the non-coal waste material which was the subject of NOV 1 of 10 has been removed, however a small amount of non-coal waste in the form of cinder blocks, scrap metal and burned refuse still remains to be cleaned up. The operator had made an attempt to barricade access to the upper pad area using two fifty-five gallon drums and a wooden log. The barricade was not completely operational at the time of the inspection. It had apparently been knocked or blown down.

The storage of mine equipment along the main access road approximately 1/4 mile down from the scalehouse which had been the subject of NOV 2, 4, and 8 of 10 was still stored in the unpermitted location. This NOV had been extended to an abatement deadline of no later than 5:00 P.M. January 30, 1983. Inspectors were unable to observe any change which had occurred in the movement of the material from the unpermitted area since the previous inspection in December.

New perimeter markers were noted at several locations along the mine permit area boundary. The new markers consisted of roof bolts which were spray painted with an orange paint at the top. The complete adequacy of the perimeter markers was not established at the time of the inspection and will be pursued in subsequent inspections. The installation of the new perimeter markers may, in part, abate NOV 3 of 10. Additionally, the mine identification sign was not present at the entry to the minesite as required in the abatement action for NOV 3 of 10.

Abatement measures to address NOV 5 of 10 requiring topsoil protection were investigated in part. Approximately 7 straw bales had been placed in a location near the base of the topsoil pile southwest of the coal stockpile area. The placement of the bales did not appear to provide much if any protection for the topsoil. Additionally, the undisturbed diversion which had been cutting through this topsoil pile had received temporary work to divert the water away from the pile. These abatement actions were not considered adequate to abate that part of the violation.

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Abatement actions required by NOV 6 of 10 were undertaken in December of 1982. This inspection revealed some other concerns in this area regarding boulders which apparently had either fallen back into the stream channel or had never been removed, and the construction of the bank of the catch basin so as to encroach on the stream channel. Consultation with Division hydrologists will be undertaken to determine the ramifications of the catch basin sidewall encroaching on the stream channel.

Some effort had been undertaken to address sediment control measures and subsequent erosion occurring on the downslope below the fan area. A small 8 to 10 inch berm had been installed. However, no abatement action to address NOV 7 of 10 had been taken on the other pad drainage areas and subsequent erosion was occurring. During the inspection, disturbed area drainage was flowing off the southern end of the coal stockpile pad in an uncontrolled manner. Three rills 9 to 10" deep were observed with water flowing in them.

The diversion ditch which was the subject of NOV 9 of 10 was still in the same condition which was observed during the inspection of December 1982. Although no actual flow was observed leaving the diversion ditch, it was apparent that the potential for flow to leave the diversion ditch was extremely high. It appeared there were now two areas where the disturbed area drainage would exit the ditch and leave the permit site untreated. There was no appearance of adequate abatement action having been taken on this violation.

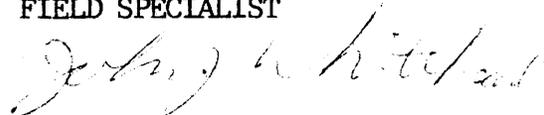
Disturbed area drainage was observed leaving the scale area, running down the road to the main access haul road and thus bypassing the catch basin designed to control disturbed area drainage from this portion of the permit area. This further constituted evidence that the inlets and diversions to gather disturbed area drainage from the scale area are not operational.

In addition to the previous observations on the areas contained in violation N82-5-2-10, serious concern exists about the method of conveyance for the undisturbed diversion which passes on the south side of the crushing pad and empties in an uncontrolled manner onto the hill slope below. This was the same diversion which had dissected the topsoil pile which was the subject of NOV 5 of 10. The operator needs to address this situation and provide some means of conveyance for this drainage to reach the inlet to the culvert going under the coal stockpile pad.

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An additional area of concern was the haul road running from the Huntington Canyon highway to the minesite which was constructed by Co-op Mining Company. There were apparently no water bars or other drainage control mechanisms on the road as runoff water was observed leaving the minesite and appeared to run the entire length of the road to the intersection with Huntington Canyon Highway. Compliance with the sediment control measures required in UMC 817.153 will be examined in subsequent inspections.

JOHN J. WHITEHEAD  
FIELD SPECIALIST



JJW/lm

cc: Tom Ehmett, OSM  
Wendell Owen, Co-op Mining Company  
Joe Helfrich, DOGM  
Ev Hooper, DOGM  
Rick Summers, DOGM

Statistics:

See Trail Canyon memo, dated January 28, 1983.