

February 9, 1983

Inspection Memo
to Coal File:

RE: Co-op Mining Company
Bear Canyon Mine
ACT/015/025 #3
Emery County, Utah

The above noted mine was given a partial inspection on February 2, 1983 by John Whitehead and Joe Helfrich. The inspectors were accompanied by Dennis White and Wendell Owen of Co-op Mining Company. The purpose of the inspection was to follow up on the abatement actions which should have been undertaken for N82-5-2-10 issued December 16, 1982.

The majority of the non-coal waste material deposited on the uppermost pad area which was the subject of NOV 1 of 10 had been removed. Due to partial compliance by the operator this violation was extended to an abatement deadline of March 4, 1983 to allow removal of the remaining non-coal waste.

Storage of mining equipment along the main access road approximately 1/4 mile down the access road from the scalehouse had not been removed as required in the abatement actions of NOV 2, 4, and 8 of 10. As a result cessation order 83-5-1-4, parts 1, 2 and 4 were issued for failure to abate the violations.

Perimeter markers which clearly delineated the perimeter of all areas affected by surface operations had been installed. The markers consisted of roof bolts painted with orange spray paint. The mine identification sign was not observable, however during the inspection Mr. Owen propped the sign up. Thus NOV 3 of 10 was terminated with the understanding that the mine identification sign would need to be installed in a permanent fashion at the entrance to the Bear Canyon minsite.

Partial abatement action had been undertaken to abate NOV 5 of 10. The topsoil pile located between the sediment pond and the proposed bathhouse pad had been protected via a straw bale dyke around the perimeter of the pile. However the topsoil stockpile located southwest of the coal stockpile pad area had not been properly protected. Approximately 7 straw bales had been placed in a location near the base of the topsoil however these bales provided little if any protection to the stockpile. Additionally, it was pointed out to the operator that the temporary work to divert the undisturbed diversion which had been dissecting the stockpile was not adequate to meet permanent performance standards. As a result of the partial abatement action NOV 5 of 10 was extended to an abatement deadline of March 4, 1983.

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The work to remove the rocks, boulders, and other material placed in the Bear Creek stream channel as a result of the construction activities associated with the scale was deemed adequate to abate NOV 6 of 10; this violation was terminated.

The abatement action to address NOV 7 of 10 dealing with maintaining sediment control measures to minimize erosion had not been undertaken by the operator. Of the 4 areas named in the portion of the operation to which the notice applies in NOV 7 of 10, only partial abatement action had been undertaken in one area. A small berm had been installed above the downslope from the fan and portal area as was noted in the inspection of January 25, 1983. Since that inspection had been performed, mine water discharge had been routed through that berm onto the downslope further continuing to erode in the rills that were present. As a result of the failure by the operator to address the abatement work required a cessation order for failure to abate was issued. This was included in part 3 of C83-5-1-4.

The disturbed area diversion ditch which was the subject of NOV 9 of 10 had not been adequately addressed by the operator although some work had been performed since the inspection of January 25, 1983. The area where disturbed area runoff was leaving the diversion ditch had been addressed with earthen material to increase the size of the berm. However, as was noted in the inspection of January 25, 1983 a second area persisted which would allow disturbed area drainage to leave the permit area untreated. The operator was advised that this diversion ditch needed to be maintained to assure proper depth and sizing allow design flow volumes to be safely conveyed to fully abate this NOV. Because of the partial abatement measures undertaken by the operator this NOV was extended to an abatement deadline of March 4, 1983.

The diversions and inlets leading to the catch basin located southwest of the scalehouse which was the subject of NOV 10 of 10 had been addressed in part by the operator. The measures which were undertaken by the operator were deemed as temporary in nature and not adequate to meet performance standards according to UMC regulations. As a result of the operators partial compliance the abatement deadline was extended to March 4, 1983.

As was noted previously, during this inspection mine water discharge was being conveyed into the undisturbed drainage channel which begins below the area adjacent to the fan. It was also noted that the coal in the bin above the crushing facility had overflowed the limits of the bin and filled portions of the undisturbed drainage channel, contaminating it with coal material. Additionally, it was noted that significant amounts of coal fines were present in the undisturbed drainage channel all adding to contamination of the

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undisturbed drainage channel. As a result NOV N83-5-2-2, #2 of 2 was issued for failure to design, construct and maintain diversions in accordance with UMC 817.43, and failure to maintain sediment control measures so as to prevent contributions of additional suspended solids to runoff outside the permit area. Remedial action required cleaning all coal and other contaminants from the ditch, preventing mine water effluent from being conveyed in the ditch, and submitting complete and adequate plans for construction and maintenance of the undisturbed diversion to properly convey undisturbed drainage for this area. The plans shall include timetables for implementation upon approval of the plans by the Division. The time for abatement was no later than March 7, 1983 for all parts.

Additionally during the inspection Mr. Wendell Owen was requested to provide the inspectors with the appropriate permits for the septic tank sewage disposal system which had been partially installed. Mr. Owen was unable to provide any permits to the inspectors. As a result NOV N83-5-2-2, #1 of 2 was issued for failure to conduct surface coal mine operations under permits issued by the Division. The operator had partially installed septic tanks at the southern end of the trailer house adjacent to the truck scales and on the western side of the proposed bathhouse pad. Both of these systems were close enough to Bear Creek, a perennial stream, and could cause fecal coliform contamination problems. The remedial action, required no later than March 7, 1983, was to submit complete and adequate plans to properly permit the sewage treatment and disposal system for the Bear Canyon Mine. Additionally, the operator was requested to cease any further construction activity on the sewage systems until plans are approved.

During the inspection it was noted that the diversion ditch which runs roughly north and south along and below the eastern side of the coal stockpile pad was in need of maintenance to assure that appropriate sizing was maintained to convey snowmelt. The operator was advised of the need to maintain this ditch.


JOHN J. WHITEHEAD
FIELD SPECIALIST

JJW/lm

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

Statistics:

See Soldier Canyon Mine memo, dated February 9, 1983.