

June 8, 1983

Inspection Memo
to Coal File:

RE: Co-op Mining Company
Bear Canyon Mine
ACT/015/025
Folder No. 7
Emery County, Utah

DATE: June 8, 1983
TIME: 10:00 A.M. - 1:20 P.M.
WEATHER: Partially cloudy, scattered showers
COMPANY OFFICIAL: Bill Stoddard
STATE OFFICIALS: John Whitehead, Everett Hooper

Compliance with Permanent Performance Standards

771 et al Permits

The following permits and approvals were reviewed during the inspection:

1. A letter dated March 20, 1981 from Jim Smith of the Division grants approval under the interim program.
2. A letter dated May 13, 1983 from Pamela Grubaugh-Littig notes a Letter of Credit #294-80 in the amount of \$85,000 plus an escrow account of \$16,267.00 satisfies the bonding requirements for the Bear Canyon and Trail Canyon operations.

No air quality permit has been obtained from the Department of Health as of yet for the Bear Canyon Mine. Wendell Owen indicates that he has been in contact with a representative from the Department of Health and indicated also that water sprays would be utilized for dust control on the crushing and sizing facilities of the Bear Canyon Mine. Presently the coal dust is a significant concern given the amount generated during the crushing, sizing and stacking operations presently ongoing at the Bear Canyon Mine.

UMC 817.11 Signs and Markers

Once again the entrance sign to the Bear Canyon Mine was not posted and visible at the entrance point to the mine. The sign itself was knocked down and laying flat as it has been on previous occasions. Mr. Stoddard was warned that the sign will need to be permanently installed and visible to the public and the regulatory enforcement officials to avoid violations for this seemingly unimportant matter.

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The perimeter markers delineating the disturbed area which had been installed back in December were painted a highly visible orange color on roof bolts. It was noted during this inspection that the orange paint is fading quite rapidly and visibility will be a problem in the very near future. Repainting these roof bolt markers with a more durable paint or flagging the markers would be well advised to assure compliance with the regulations.

UMC 817.21 - .25 Topsoil

The topsoil stockpile situation at the Bear Canyon Mine has been modified slightly pursuant to violation N83-5-5-3, #1 of 3 in that two piles have been designated as unsuitable for topsoil material. In a letter dated May 18, 1983 from this inspector the topsoil pile immediately west of the main sediment pond and the topsoil pile off the permit area on the west side of the access road can be abandoned as topsoil stockpiles. The remedial action to abate this violation calls for the adequate protection and storage of the remaining 5 stockpiles.

UMC 817.41 - .51 Hydrologic Balance

The entrance to the uppermost cross culvert draining the access road to the portal area was clogged with sediment and will need to be cleaned out. Additionally, the diversion at the switchback on the portal road appeared to be improperly graded to allow flow to leave the road at this point. If Co-op Mining Company's intentions are to route drainage off the road at this point this ditch will need to be slightly regraded to obtain free drainage.

The diversion which runs along the south and west side of the crusher pad which was the subject of NOV N83-5-2-2, #2 of 2 is still not abated. Presently the raw coal is continuing to impact the diversion. Bill Stoddard indicated that Co-op Mining Company plans to route the flow from this diversion onto the coal stockpile pad and into the sediment pond. Installation of the culvert and the submission of plans for this have not been completely finalized with the Division as of yet.

Violation N82-5-2-10, #7 of 10 indicated that undisturbed drainage should be adequately conveyed away from the disturbed area and disturbed area drainage should be adequately conveyed to the sediment pond to minimize erosion. The termination of this violation included installation of a straw bale dike along the crusher pad with the understanding that permanent control measures would be installed when weather conditions permitted. It was pointed out to Mr. Stoddard that weather conditions now allow permanent drainage control measures to be installed on the crusher pad area.

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The coal stockpile pad area was also the subject of Violation N82-5-2-10, #7 of 10 wherein temporary berms were constructed in some areas of the pad to abate the violation until weather conditions permitted construction of permanent measures. Mr. Stoddard was advised that more permanent measures such as berms to control drainage off this pad need to be implemented during the construction season.

The area which is adjacent to an old box car across from the entrance to the coal stockpile pad area is used as a storage area for the Bear Canyon Mine. Some of this material had been placed on the berm or over the edge adjacent to Bear Canyon Creek. Mr. Stoddard was requested to relocate material that was on the berms or over the edge back onto the minesite behind adequate berms to control drainage for this site. Mr. Stoddard indicated that this action was being undertaken shortly following this inspection.

The culvert routing undisturbed drainage underneath the south end of the coal storage pad was partially obstructed at the inlet. This will need to be cleaned out to assure adequate drainage.

The powerpole disturbance that was adjacent to the culvert routing undisturbed drainage underneath the south end of the coal stockpile pad also appears to be showing some early signs of erosion. Mr. Stoddard was advised that some measures to stabilize and control drainage from the reclaimed area need to be implemented in the very near future. Additionally, on the south and east side of this powerpole disturbance, early signs of erosion are showing on the downslope. This area also needs to be stabilized as well and drainage controlled from the site.

UMC 817.52 Surface and Groundwater Monitoring

Co-op Mining Company has obtained NPDES permit UT 0023612 issued March 22, 1982 and expiring December 31, 1986 for both the Trail and Bear Canyon mines. The Bear Canyon discharge point (the sediment pond) names the Bear Canyon Creek as the receiving waters. Mr. Owen indicated that no discharge has ever come out of the sediment pond at the Bear Canyon Mine. While the cover letter and proof of permits were available from Mr. Owen, the details and the effluent criteria and sampling criteria normally attached to the NPDES permit were not available. Mr. Owen indicated that he does not think that the material was ever sent. Water data for the months of March and April were reviewed for the Bear Canyon operation.

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UMC 817.89 Disposal of Non-Coal Waste

Non-coal waste bins for the disposal of garbage are utilized by the Bear Canyon operation for removal of non-coal waste. During the inspection non-coal waste was observed burning immediately adjacent to the fan area as well as stored adjacent to the portal area. Mr. Stoddard indicated that this material is subsequently taken down to the trash bin at the main coal pad area for removal. The operator is encouraged to keep an eye on this problem lest it get out of hand.

UMC 817.150 - .176 Roads

A class I haul road extending from the Huntington Canyon highway up to the permit area for the Bear Canyon Mine did not appear to be in compliance with specifications contained in the Permanent Performance Standards. Specifically it was noted that the drainage controls on the road were apparently inadequate as well as the surfacing requirements of gravel or pavement not in compliance. The exact compliance situation of the road will need to be determined in future inspections when more accurate distance and slope measurements can be determined.



JOHN J. WHITEHEAD
FIELD SPECIALIST

JJW/lm

cc: Tom Ehmett, OSM
Bill Stoddard, Co-op
Wendell Owen, Co-op
Joe Helfrich, DOGM
Ev Hooper, DOGM

Statistics:

See C. V. Spur memo dated June 13, 1983.