0035

File

September 19, 1985

TO: Coal File, Inspection and Enforcement Folder

FROM: David Lof, Mining Field Specialist DL

RE: Co-Op Mining Company, Bear Canyon Mine, ACT/015/025, Folder #7, Emery County, Utah

DATE:	August 22 and 23, 1985
TIME:	12:15 - 4:45 p.m. and 10:00 - 11:30 a.m., respectively
WEATHER:	Mostly clear and warm
COMPANY OFFICIAL	Wendell Owen
STATE OFFICIAL	David Lof and Jim Fricke

Compliance with Permanent Performance Standards

UMC 771 et al Permits

The operator is currently conducting mining activities under an interim permit which was issued by the Division on March 20, 1985. The following approval letters were reviewed in the operator's mine office:

1. Final approval of the operator's scalehouse modification, dated October 12, 1985.

2. Approval from the Division for the reconstruction of Sediment Pond A, dated December 5, 1984.

3. Approval from the Division for plans to reconstruction Sediment Pond B, dated July 29, 1985. This letter was followed up by a July 31, 1985 letter from the Division which set a construction deadline of September 30, 1985 for the pond.

UMC 817.11 Signs and Markers

A mine identification sign was posted as required.

The operator has recently installed new buffer zone signs. The signs which I viewed were properly posted.

UMC 817.21-.23 Topsoil

The operator's topsoil stockpile is located east of the operator's scalehouse facilities and is protected by a berm and ditch.

UMC 817.41-.51 Hydrologic Balance

Mine Water Discharge, NOV N85-4-13-1

This violation was issued on April 23, 1985 for the operator's discharging of mine water to the sediment pond without approval. The operator was required to stop discharging water from the mine

immediately and to submit complete plans to the Division for the permitting of mine water discharge to the surface by June 8, 1985.

The operator submitted plans on June 18, 1985 as part and parcel of their mine plan. The proposed plan was conditionally approved by the Division in a letter dated July 8, 1985.

Upper Storage Pad

Sometime around July 23, 1985 a very large thunderstorm occurred at the mine site. The intensity of the storm was evident from the amount of water, soil material, rocks and 3 feet + boulders which came out of the small (15 acre), steep, dry wash above the upper storage pad. Measurements taken of the high water mark in the channel indicated flow depth of 9 feet and width of 16 feet. The materials washed down onto the pad totally covered and filled in the undisturbed diversion and culvert. The amount of material deposited was approximately 100 cubic yards and many of the boulders were greater than 2-3 feet in diameter.

The undisturbed diversion which conveys runoff from the dry wash above the fan and above the water storage pad was washed out by runoff from both washes. The operator reconstructed the entire diversion ditch bypassing the undisturbed runoff bypass culvert under the pad because it's inlet is now under several feet of soil material, and temporarily outlet the diversion onto the fill slope of the storage pad.

The runoff from the draw above the storage pad ran across the pad and down the access road toward the fan where it combined with the runoff from the draw above the fan. The combined runoff breached the berm on the outside edge of the access road across from the fan and went down the fill slope toward the crusher pad. The gully formed by the runoff was estimated at 20 feet wide and 10 feet deep at its largest point, and extended down the slope to the crusher pad.

Portal Pad

The thunderstorm did not cause any apparent damage to the portal pad. During a telephone conversation with Mr. Coonrod of Co-Op on the evening of August 22, 1985, I asked him to have the inlet of the undisturbed culvert on the portal pad maintained.

The operator has constructed a small (10 feet X 20 feet), shallow catch basin just outside the intake portal to contain a small amount of mine water (less than 1 gpm) coming from the portal. At one end of the catch basin there was a 4 inch metal pipe which water was discharging through at a trickle. This 4 inch pipe runs under the portal pad and outlets between the disturbed area runoff culvert downspout and the 2 inch mine water discharge pipe which NOV N85-4-13-1 was issued on.

According to Mr. Coonrod the mine water is from some drippers just a short distance inside the mine. In addition, before the catch basin was constructed the water used to collect at the mine entrance creating a mud hole.

Crusher Pad

The disturbed area runoff culvert from the crusher pad down to the coal stockpile pad had been completely blown out by the thunderstorm. The operator had brought in fill and raised the pad area where the culvert had been in order to direct runoff down the access road. According to Mr. Coonrod, this is a temporary measure to control runoff until a more permanent solution is derived.

Sediment Pond A

The operator was in the process of cleaning out the pond and reconstructing the embankments. The cleaning of the pond had been completed at the time of my inspection. Mr Owen said that Dan Guy of Blackhawk Engineering will be conducting compaction test and surveys of the pond during the reconstruction phase, and certification of the pond upon completion.

Mr. Owen was asked to maintain the berm on the outside edge of the sediment pond diversion in the area adjacent to the fuel tanks prior to my next inspection.

Sediment Pond B

The operator had not started reconstructing this pond yet because they needed to move their buried telephone cable first. The thunderstorm, had not caused any damage to the pond's outside embankment which is immediately adjacent to Bear Creek, but it had scoured the stream channel itself.

Sediment Pond Inspections

I reviewed the operators inspection log and found it up to date through August 16, 1985. There were no problems noted in the log book.

UMC 817.52 Surface and Groundwater Monitoring

The operator has a NPDES permit #UT-0023612 dated March 23, 1982 which will expire December 31, 1986. Surface water monitoring data was available through July 18, 1985. There were no apparent problems with the monitoring data which were reviewed.

UMC 817.95 Air Resources Protection

The operator seems to be doing a better job of controlling fugitive

dust on the haul road since the problem was first discussed with them in March 1985. However, I did point out to both Mr. Owen and Mr. Coonrod that they also need to control fugitive dust in other active areas such as the coal stockpile pad, crusher pad and scale house area.

UMC 817.150-.176 Roads

The first cross culvert for the Class II road down from the portal pad (C3U) needed to be maintained. In order to attach the flexible downspout to the culvert outlet the operator had split the downspout and fitted it over the end of the culvert. The split in the downspout has allowed runoff to leak from the downspout and start forming a rill on the fill slope. In addition, the outlet of the downspout needs to be extended further down slope to an area which is better protected from erosion. These two points were discussed with Mr. Coonrod during our August 22, 1985 telephone conversation.

re

cc: Donna Griffin, OSM
Mel Coonrod, Co-Op
Joe Helfrich, DOGM
Ken May, DOGM

Statistics: See Co-Op Mining Company, Trail Canyon Mine memo dated September 10, 1985

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