

Incoming

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OGMCOAL - Fwd: Re: Crandall Emergency bypass

From: Steve Christensen
To: OGMCOAL
Date: 3/29/2010 9:46 AM
Subject: Fwd: Re: Crandall Emergency bypass

>>> Jeffrey Studenka 3/29/2010 9:46 AM >>>
Dave,

Thanks for the information and for notifying DWQ and DNR last week as appropriate. Based upon our discussions and the information provided in your e-mail, I believe you have adequately addressed the Emergency Bypass provision of your UPDES permit as outlined below. No further action is necessary at this time regarding this incident. Contact me if you have any further questions.

Jeff Studenka

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>>> "Shaver, Dave" <dshaver@coalsource.com> 3/26/2010 1:14 PM >>>

Jeff...As you know from previous phone conversations, on the afternoon of March 24, 2010, we were forced into a short-term emergency bypass of the Crandall Mine discharge water regulated under UPDES permit UT0024368. In compliance with section G.3.c. (unanticipated bypass) of that permit, we submit the following:

- 1) There were no alternatives to the bypass, since water was backing up behind the portal seals while the pipeline repairs were being made.
- 2) There repair work was performed from approximately noon until about 3:30 pm. After the pipeline was repaired, water was then turned into the pipe, thereby beginning to release the pressure which had built up behind the seals. Since the flow was then higher than normal, and to prevent damage to the iron treatment facility below, water was temporarily bypassed around the treatment, and sent directly into the receiving stream, for a period of thirty minutes from 3:30pm to 4:00pm. At that time, based on auditory observations (listening to the sound coming from the air-vac installed in the discharge line), we could tell that the flow was beginning to diminish and it was then safe to route the discharge water back through the treatment facility.
- 3) In order to minimize environmental impacts (i.e., discharging non-compliance water into Crandall creek), we made the repairs as quickly as possible. This involved calling in additional man-power, and mobilizing a trackhoe from off another job. I purchased about \$400 worth of supplies from the local hardware store and put it on my personal credit card in order to expedite the repairs rather than running to the West Ridge Mine warehouse for parts.
- 4) Due to the limited nature of the discharge interruption we did not notify any of the downstream users. We did however, notify your office as soon as we knew of the situation, and again after it was fixed. Also, I notified DOGM of the incident first thing the following morning.
- 5) No assessment plan was implemented because of the bypass. As you are aware, the Crandall minewater is being intensively analysed at present as part of the implementation of the iron treatment facility, and numerous state and federal agencies are familiar with the chemistry of the

untreated water involved in the bypass.

6) Additional information requested by the Secretary will be provided if needed.

Please contact me if you have any additional questions or comments. Thanks

Dave Shaver