



OGMCOAL DNR <ogmcoal@utah.gov>

Alton Coal Development -- Coal Hollow Project

Keenan Storrar <kstorrar@utah.gov>

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To: Mike Herkimer <mherkimer@utah.gov>, OGMCOAL DNR <ogmcoal@utah.gov>

Mike,

I visited Alton Coal Development's -- Coal Hollow Project on Tuesday, March 24, 2015 and reviewed the status of hydrologic conveyance features and sediment ponds at the site.

Early March of 2015 a significant snow storm deposited ~2 to 3 feet snow at the site. The snow pack fully melted off within a 4 to 5 day period following the storm event, filling the majority of sediment ponds beyond capacity, causing the ponds to discharge through their UPDES discharge points. As of yesterday, outfall 002 and 003 were discharging through their designated spillways.

During our inspection, we found sediment Pond #4 with outfall 004 was not functioning according to design. Runoff from within the permitted disturbed area had properly flowed to the sediment pond however, a berm directing disturbed area water into the sediment pond had failed. This failure caused the runoff from the disturbed area to bypass the sediment pond and flow off site untreated. I discussed this failure to properly convey water with the Permittee. The Permittee informed me he had not seen flow discharging at the pond's outfall spillway, therefore he did not take any samples. I have given the Permittee one month to correct this berm failure to prevent untreated offsite discharge in the future.

Thanks,
Keenan Storrar
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
[801-538-5345](tel:801-538-5345)
kstorrar@utah.gov