

September 22, 1983

MEMO TO COAL FILE

RE: Convulsion Canyon Mine
Southern Utah Fuel Company
ACT/041/002, Folder No. 7
Sevier County, Utah

The state lab results of the August 3, 1983 sample of SUFCO sediment pond bypass discharge (Sample No. 832771) are not consistent with visual observations and OSM's sample results.

Jodie Merriman, OSM obtained a sample of the sediment pond discharge about 12:00 p.m. August 3, 1983. This sample was analyzed to contain 67 ppm TSS, less than .5 ppm settleable solids and 526 ppm TDS. Sandy Pruitt, DOGM obtained a sample of the bypass at the same discharge point at 12:30 p.m. that same day. This sample appeared clearer than the OSM sample. The State Health Lab reported 200 ppm TSS, 606 ppm TDS, .3 ppm settleable solids and a specific conductivity of 950. This sample (which was photographed) was not very cloudy and could not have contained the level of solids reported.

Mr. Steve Dickson the settleable solids State Lab technician, was notified of this inconsistency. He informed me that the settleable solids test was conducted before a witness to ensure that the procedure of analysis is correct. He was certain no mixup had occurred during sample analysis but suspected that the sample could have been mixed up during another analysis or at checkin (although the bottle was labeled with the same description as noted on the analysis form). Chain of custody was not followed for this sample since I did not suspect a compliance problem, therefore it cannot be determined how the inconsistency could have occurred.

No enforcement action is warranted since the evidence obtained is questionable.


SANDY PRUITT
FIELD SPECIALIST

SP/jvb

cc: Tom Ehmett, OSM
Joe Helfrich, DOGM
Russ Hinshaw, State Health
Kerry Frame, SUFCO