

From: Jeffrey Studenka
To: Fluke, Steve; Grubaugh-Littig, Pam; Hedberg, Wayne
Date: 10/20/2005 12:03:21 PM
Subject: SUFCo update #2

Greetings,

Yesterday's meeting and site visit was very productive. After reviewing all of the documented photos and information since October 5, 2005, Ken May and SUFCo reviewed all of their water distribution plans with DWQ & DOGM. SUFCo still believes that the older settling area is the cause for any isolated events which may cause coal fines to be discharged out 003. They are committed to resolving this potential cause by rerouting all of the mine water to the larger, newer gob setting area and installing turbidity meters for constant monitoring. These activities will begin this week. In the meantime SUFCo will visually inspect the water before and after 003 at least daily and keep a record of these inspections. All of this will be documented by SUFCo in a response letter to DWQ & DOGM detailing their plan of action.

The mine water underground and discharge water at the weir and outfall 003 appeared very clear. Samples were collected by DWQ and SUFCo for UPDES permit parameters. I informed SUFCo that our sample of Quichipah Creek on 10/5-05 (afternoon) resulted in a TSS value of 458.7 mg/L. As you recall SUFCo's sample from 003 on the same day (morning) resulted in <5 mg/L. All other UPDES permit parameters were in compliance. I have requested a retest for our sample to confirm the high result, but I suspect it will be similar.

At this time, we anticipate lab results from last weeks samples any day now for comparison to the 10/5 samples. Once we have all the data, I would like to set up a meeting for DWQ and DOGM to discuss any potential follow up action. As I mentioned to Steve, I don't think yesterday's activities could have went any better and the folks at SUFCo have been very pro-active and willing to implement all of our suggestions as well as their own ideas for resolving this matter. I will contact you when we have all the lab data regarding a meeting. Thanks again for everyone's efforts.

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