1186308 - R8 SDMS

STATE OF COLORADO

Roy Romer, Governor
Patti Shwayder, Acting Executive Director

Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

Grand Junction Regional Office
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Grand Junction, Colorado 81501-2768
FAX (970) 248-7198

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

April 21, 1995

David Sell
Rico Development Corporation
1580 Lincoln St., Suite 900
Denver, CO 80203

Re: Annual Inspection, Wastewater Treatment Facilities, CDPES Permit No. CO-0029793, for Rico Development Corp., Dolores County

Dear Mr. Sell:

Enclosed are your copies of the above report forms for the inspections performed on April 3, 1995. During the inspection, the following items were noted and need to be brought to your attention:

1. The pH buffers used to calibrate the pH meter are no longer good, because they have exceeded their shelf life. You must obtain new buffers for proper calibration procedures.

2. A permanent staff gauge that reads in 1/100ths of a foot is required on the Parshall flume.

3. As a reminder, it is the Department's position that the old cyanide heap basin is not a satisfactory site to dispose of sludge. Prior approval by the Department of Health and the Division of Minerals and Geology is required BEFORE any sludge removal or relocation can occur. Please submit your sludge plan for review.

4. Ponds should have 2 feet of freeboard.

5. The Colorado Plant Operator Certification Regulations require a "C" certified operator to operate this facility. Please contact Ellen Levine-Jones at (303) 692-3501 regarding this deficiency.

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Thank you for your time and cooperation. If you have any questions, please call me in the Durango office at (970) 247-5702.

Sincerely,

James B. Horn
District Engineer
Water Quality Control Division

JBH:jbh

cc: Dolores County Sanitarian
Permits and Enforcement Section, CDPHE
Field Services, CDPHE
EPA, Region VIII 8WM-DW
Ellen Levine-Jones
District Engineer
File

Industrial Wastewater
Inspection Report

SECTION A: NATIONAL DATA SYSTEM CODING

Trans	Code	CDPS/NPDES	Date	Insp Type	Inspector	Fac Type
5	5	CO-0029793	04/03/95	C	S	2

Fac Eval	BI	QA	County	Operator	Plant Class
2	Y		17	None	C

SECTION B: FACILITY DATA

1. Legally Responsible Party: Rico Developement Corp.
   Mailing Address: 1580 Lincoln St., Suite 900
   Denver CO 80203000
   Business Phone: (303)837-1580
   Emergency Phone: (303)967-2793
   Legal Representative: David Sell

2. Operating Company: Rico Developement Corp.
   Mailing Address: 1580 Lincoln., Suite 900
   Denver CO 80203000
   Business Phone: (970)967-2793
   Emergency Phone: (970)967-2332
   Local Facility Contact: Wayne Webster, Grady Leavell

3. Has any of this information changed since the last inspection? Y

4. County in which facility is located: Dolores

5. Plant Products: None. This is an inactive mine.
   Present Production Rate: 0
   Design Production Rate: 0
   Raw Materials: Metal ore from portal.

SECTION C: AREAS EVALUATED DURING INSPECTION

6. Briefly describe the process steps used in producing the product. Include a process flow diagram and a discussion of chemicals used at the site and their final disposition. State the final disposal of wastewater streams.

There is no production process at this facility. There is a discharge from the St. Louis Portal, which includes flow from the Blaine Tunnel. Part of this wastewater is treated with slaked lime -- the combined treated and untreated wastewater flows into a series of sedimentation ponds, prior to discharge from 002. Blaine Tunnel was not inspected to verify that there was no discharge as stated by the operator.

7. What containment does t... permittee have for materials us processed or stored on site?

Slaked lime is stored in a hopper. This is the only material stored on-site.

Are additional controls necessary? N
Is the Materials Containment Plan adequate? Y
If no, explain.

8. Describe the wastewater treatment processes:

Wastewater from the St. Louis Portal goes through a split box. Part is treated with slaked lime and goes into the first sedimetation pond. The untreated wastewater by-passes the first two ponds and then is combined with the wastewater that has been chemically treated. There are 10 ponds in series. A 9" Parshall flume measures flow at discharge point 002 into the Dolores River.

SECTION D: OPERATION/MAINTENANCE:

9. Evaluate the treatment facility. Include in this evaluation a discussion of any operation and maintenance problems:

The discharge from the splitter box going into pond #1 was no longer flowing out of a surcharged manhole and into what appeared to be the old CN heap leach pond as was noted in 5/5/93 inspection. The freeboard in these ponds has always been limited.

10. How are solid wastes disposed? Could this disposal practice affect water quality, including groundwater? Please describe in detail.

There is a considerable amount of solid waste in the form of chemical/metal sludge. During 5/5/93 inspection Wayne wanted to relocate (pump) the sludge from ponds #1 and #2 into part of the old CN heap pond, stating that it is lined with hypalon, and remove metals from the sludge to sell. I told him 1) he must get approval from the DMG and WQCD PRIOR to doing this, 2) I explained that the liner may be no good. It was installed in the early 70's, and it was torn around the sides indicating lack if integrety, 3) I told him again that he must get approval befoer doing anything with this sludge. There has been no sludge removal activities to date.

11. How are hazardous wastes disposed? Could this disposal practice affect water quality, including groundwater? Please describe in detail.

I am not aware of any hazardous wastes on-site.

SECTION E: MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE

12. Are the facility conditions properly reflected by the permit?Y
if no, identify the differences:

Except the local community has piped geothermal water, that was bubbling out of the ground and into the last pond, and routed it to a hot tub. Hot tub overflow goes to the river. Removing the geothermal water from the last pond may or may not help bio-monitoring results. In any case if geothermal were plugged there is a high probability that it would express itself elsewhere, possibly closer to the river. This is not a spring seep, it is a deep geothermal hot spring. This local hangout probably does not add to any environmental concerns, as the geothermal would still flow to the river, BUT the site has no rest room or trash facilities.

Is there a need for extra permit conditions? N

It is up to the Denver office to determine if the hot tub requires permitting. In my opinion the water is not being altered significantly by baithing, BUT site needs porta-pottie and trash can.

13. Describe the physical condition of each discharge point. Is it discharging? If so, at what flow?

Discharge 002 was discharging at 0.900 MGD.

0.96700

14. is the permittee maintaining records as required in the permit? Y

15. Are there any impoundments, land application, or ground water monitoring wells present? Is there potential ground water impact? Y
If so, please explain in detail.

There is concern that the sedimentation ponds may be impacting state waters. Sludge removal from these ponds may compromise the clay (?) liner.

16. Flow measurement present? Y
If so, please describe the device and outfall.

A 9" Parshall flume at discharge 002. NEEDS STAFF GAUGE.

17. Is the effluent in compliance with the permit? N

18. Is there a compliance schedule? Y
Is the entity meeting the compliance schedule?

Based upon DMR's there are problems meeting zinc and bio-monitoring limits.

19. Receiving stream/segment/basin:

Dolores River, segment.

19. Comments:

Need "C" certified Indistrial operator. Mr. Leavell took over operation from Mike Towne. He appears to be famialiar with all aspects of the plant operation. Effluent FMD needs staff gauge, pH buffers are out of date.

20. Person(s) Interviewed: Grady Leavell
Title: Operator

21. CDH Engineer/Tech:James B. Horn(303)247-5702