

MEMORANDUM

TO: Steve Frost, Coal Geologist, NMBMMR

FROM: H. B. Nickelson, Mining Geologist, Consultant, NMBMMR

SUBJECT: Reclamation evaluation for OSM, Gallup Field, Black Diamond Mine

* Black Diamond Mine 4000' NL, 4700' EL, 10-15-18 Loc. 8

The Black Diamond mine was owned and operated by the Crescent Coal Company. One of the coal beds of the Dilco coal-bearing formation was named after this mine. The date of opening is not in my records, but it would be soon after 1882 as it wasn't mentioned in the territorial mine inspector's annual reports. The mine closed about June, 1896. In 1894-1895 it produced almost 45,000 tons. It was a large mine in its day for the field. It was opened by a slope and ventilated through a shaft by the aid of a furnace. A railroad spur was built up Diamond Canyon to serve its marketing. The coal and refuse were trammed off the rim and the coal put through bins into the railroad cars and the refuse piled on the valley floor. There are no dumps around the mine openings. The land is now owned by the Gallup Gamerco Coal Company.

In January, 1938, a thief was apprehended and he had hidden the stolen goods in an old hole which the police had him go into to recover the loot. He went in and never came back so the fire department was called to see what had happened to him. Two firemen returned suffering from smoke so two more went into the mine and they failed to return. Mine rescue workers recovered the three men killed by carbon monoxide. Smoke was present in the mine atmosphere as the mine was on fire at that time. Undoubtedly the openings were then closed by the mine inspector.

The examiners found two adits and a shaft which were doubtless the mine openings. The main alit was well sealed but an opening about 50' northeast was partly open and it had been used by someone as a shelter. The shaft, 8' x 6', near the southwest corner of the horse corral, was open 30' to 40'.

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The adit and the shaft should be backfilled. The openings are about 1000' to 1400' from the school and residential area. The area apparently is not used at the present time.

Photos taken on the mine site and a view of the old dumps and loading area are as follows:

G-5-7 View of the main adit of the Black Diamond Mine, which is sealed. The range pole is at the location of the opening. The coal and refuse were trammed south to the loading and dumps on the Diamond Valley floor.

G-5-8 A view of the opening about 50' NE of the main adit which is open for 10' one way and 15' north-south. The Indians or somebody have used this small opening for a shelter as old rugs cover the floor.

G-5-1 View looking N. 70° W. at Diamond Gulch. It shows the old mine dumps from the Black Diamond et al mines. The mine portals were all above this rim to the north. Note the water tower on the horizon, the new school on the left. This school is apparently not over any of the mines.

G-5-11 View of the shaft open 40' to 50' at the SW corner of the horse corral. It is about 6' x 8' in size.

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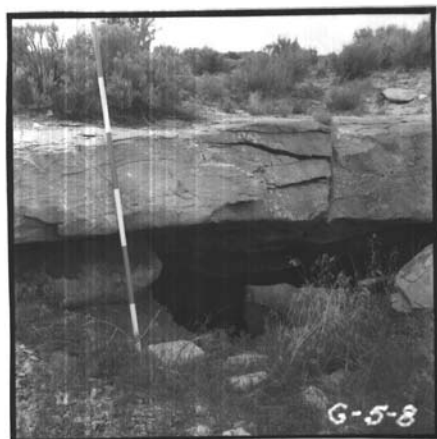
It is recommended to backfill the one adit and the old shaft SW of the horse corrals. A better search should be made to determine holes created by subsidence exist, between the openings and the base of the rim.



H. B. Nickelson



G-5-7



G-5-8



G-5-1



G-5-11