

**KMT - 25**

MEMORANDUM

TO: COLONEL GORLINSKI  
FROM: L. E. TRUMBULL  
SUBJECT: CHECKING REQUIREMENTS; MT. DIABLO MINE

ON JANUARY 17, 1957 I VISITED THE MT. DIABLO MINE TO ASCERTAIN COMPLIANCE OF THE DISCHARGE WITH THE BOARD'S REQUIREMENTS. INSPECTION WAS MADE IN COMPANY WITH MR. FRANK ANGELO, CONTRA COSTA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT. MR. VIC BLÖMBERG, MINE OPERATOR WAS AWAY FROM THE AREA AND COULD NOT BE CONTACTED.

MARSH CREEK WAS DRY AT THE GAGING STATION AT THE CANYON OUTLET. FLOW APPEARED IN THE STREAM FROM ABOUT LIBERTY SCHOOL TO MARSH CREEK LODGE. STREAM BED WAS DRY AGAIN FROM MARSH CREEK SPRINGS LODGE TO DUNN CREEK. MARSH CREEK STREAM BED IN THE SUNSHINE CAMP AREA IS FREE OF COLORED DEPOSITS. MARSH CREEK SPRINGS SWIMMING POOL WAS INSPECTED AND FOUND TO BE FREE OF DISCOLORATION DUE TO CHALYBEATE WATERS.

INSPECTION OF THE MT. DIABLO MINE HOLDING POND INDICATED THE WATER LEVEL HAD RECENTLY DROPPED, PERHAPS BY 1 FOOT. FRAYED ENDS OF THE STEEL CABLE USED TO SUPPORT THE SYPHON TUBES SUGGESTS CORROSION WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR AN ACCIDENTAL LOWERING OF THE SYPHON TUBES. MR. ZUUR, RESIDENT NEAR THE JUNCTION OF DUNN AND MARSH CREEKS, REPORTED THIS ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGE OCCURRED LAST WEEK. SYPHON IS NOW SUPPORTED BY A NEW STEEL CABLE WHICH WOULD APPEAR TO BE EVENTUALLY SUSCEPTIBLE TO A SIMILAR CORROSION FAILURE.

MR. ZUUR REPORTS THAT A HEAVY STREAM OF BROWN LIQUOR CAME DOWN MARSH CREEK PAST HIS HOME. PERCOLATION WAS RAPID IN THE DRY STREAM BED AND THE FLOW DID NOT EXTEND DOWNSTREAM AS FAR AS SUNSHINE CAMP.

DUNN CREEK ABOVE THE MINE IS DRY. SEEPAGE FROM THE HILLSIDE AT THE UPPER END OF MINE PROPERTY CONTRIBUTES A FLOW OF 5 TO 10 GPM WHICH IS BY-PASSED AROUND THE POND. THIS FLOW IS CLEAR AND HAD A PH OF 7.0.

A CLEAR SPRING TRICKLES DOWN THE HILLSIDE AT THE SOUTHERN EDGE OF MINE WORKINGS AND ENTERS DUNN CREEK AT THE BASE OF THE DAM. THIS WATER APPEARS TO CONTAIN EPSON SALTS AND WAS FOUND TO HAVE A PH OF 9. A PARALLEL SPRING APPEARS NEARBY AND CONTAINS A REDISH LIQUOR WHICH IS LED INTO THE MINE POND. THE RED LIQUOR HAS A PH OF 3. MIXTURE OF THE RED LIQUOR WITH THE ADJACENT CLEAR SPRING WATER PRODUCES A HEAVY WHITE FLOC. THIS CHEMICAL REACTION IS IN EVIDENCE AT THE BASE OF THE DAM WHERE A WHITE MILKINESS APPEARS DUE TO CONTACT OF THE SPRING WATER WITH ACID SEEPAGE FROM THE DAM. DUNN CREEK IS SOMEWHAT MILKY AT THE LIVERMORE ROAD BRIDGE. FLOW OF ABOUT 10 GPM DISAPPEARS NEAR ITS JUNCTION WITH THE DRY MARSH CREEK BED.

AS THE MINE POND WAS NOT OVERFLOWING AT THE TIME OF INSPECTION; AND AS DUNN CREEK FLOW IS NOT CURRENTLY CREATING A NUISANCE BY DISCOLORATION OF MARSH CREEK WATERS, MY INSPECTION INDICATES THE MT. DIABLO MINE IS CURRENTLY COMPLYING WITH THE BOARD'S REQUIREMENTS.