

ocate

2005
General

Price, Utah 50c

Carbon surpasses Emery, Sevier coal production levels

Bolstered by significant extraction increases at the Andalex and Dugout Canyon mines, Carbon County produced the majority of Utah's coal in 2004.

Carbon's production total registered at 8.8 million short tons last year, up from 7.1 million short tons in 2003.

Starting in 2005, all new extraction activity at the Skyline operation will be in the company's northern leases located in Carbon County. In the past, the mining at Skyline occurred in Emery County.

Emery County has led coal production statewide since 1990. But Emery dropped below Carbon and Sevier counties due to Skyline's temporary closure as well as decreased extraction activity at the Bear Canyon, Deer Creek and Crandall Canyon operations.

Emery County mines produced 5.5 million short tons of coal in 2004, compared to 8.9 million short tons in 2003 and 17.3 million tons in 1995.

The state's latest coal forecast compiled by the Utah Geological Survey indicates that Emery County could witness a resurgence in production in the event the proposed Lila Canyon mine starts operation.

Sevier County's only active mine, Sufco, beefed up production to 7.6 million short tons in 2004, representing an increase of 6.2 percent compared to 2003 totals.

During 2004, the number of active mines in Utah decreased from 14 to 13 as Whisky Creek closed operation. The number of employees in the coal industry declined from 1,583 to 1,523.

As Skyline dropped employees, the Emery mine was increasing operations, resulting in a modest overall decline of 60 employees between 2003 and 2004.

Coal-related employment totals are projected to increase by 236 workers in 2005 due to the reopening of Skyline and the continued hiring at the Emery mine, noted the industry forecast.

Employment totals could jump by an additional 200 to 300 people in 2006 and 2007 if the proposed Lila Canyon and Columbia mines come online.

Production efficiency at Utah's coal mines dipped slightly last year, from 6.35 short tons per employee hour in 2003 to 5.99 tons in 2004.

Utah's miner efficiency level
(Continued on page 5A)

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surfaces at locations across state

divulging the personal information to scam artists could hurt consumers for years.

The scam typically begins when a potential victim answers an unsolicited ad for a courier position.

The ads generally promise increased wages, 401K plans, health benefits, paid vacations and more.

After answering the ad, the victim is directed to an Internet website to fill out an employment application.

Included on the application is a request for driver's license information, supposedly for a

background check, and bank account information under the guise that paychecks are direct deposited, pointed out the consumer protection officials.

Investigators familiar with the scam indicate that information gathered from the phony job applications is used to forge and deposit fraudulent checks in the victims' bank accounts.

Consumers are notified that deposits have been mistakenly made into the accounts and the victims are asked to immediately wire the funds back to the company.

But because of the trouble

they are going through, the victims are told they can keep a portion of the money.

Hoping to impress a potential employer, the targeted individuals wire the funds as directed, usually to Mexico.

A few days later, the consumers receive a notification from the bank that the original deposit has been voided because it was made with a forged check.

The wired money cannot be recovered and victims frequently discover that bank account information has been used on phony checks deposited elsewhere.

One of the concerns that consumer protection officials have is the long-term impact that the job ad scam might have on victims.

Criminals committing the scam have all of the victims' key personal information, explained consumer protection officials.

The scam artists could victimize the consumers for years with identify theft and by using the names, Social Security numbers and bank account information to forge checks as well as to fraudulently obtain credit cards.

Reportedly, losses from various Utahns victimized by the classified job ad scam range from \$400 to \$10,000, confirmed the division of consumer protection.

In an added twist of irony, numerous people who apply for courier jobs are hired by the company, noted the officials. The individuals are supplied with checks and instructions about depositing the non-existent funds. The couriers are told to make the deposits and return the slips to an address via overnight mail or delivery.

The couriers never receive paychecks and become unwitting mules in the complex, far-reaching scam by depositing bogus checks into victims' bank accounts, concluded the consumer protection officials.

Surpasses:

(Continued from page 1A) in 2004 registered significantly lower than the 8.33 tons per western coal employee hour recorded by the United States Energy Information Administration during 2003.

On average, individual employees produced 14,200 tons during 2004, down slightly from 14,600 tons in 2003, but higher than the 1990's average of 11,600 tons and 1980's 5,300 tons per employee.

Mining productivity projections for 2005 suggest a significant increase to 7.05 short tons per employee hour due to expanding production from longwall operations.

As production in the Wasatch Plateau diminished in 2004, Book Cliffs mines had to increase their production to meet growing demand.

Book Cliffs coal accounted for 38.9 percent of total production in 2004, the largest in at least the last 25 years, as compared to 30.2 percent in 2003.

Overall production from mines in the Book Cliffs increased by 21.9 percent in 2004 and is predicted to increase by an additional 1.3 percent in 2005.






Tower division operates the Aberdeen and Pinnacle mines. Tower has more than doubled production since 2003, while Canyon Fuel's Dugout mine increased production by 30 percent. Problems at West Ridge caused production to fall by 24.2 percent last year.

Book Cliffs coal production could become more significant in the future with the proposed opening of the Lila Canyon and Columbia mines.

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Your Local Weather

Wed 11/23	Thu 11/24	Fri 11/25	Sat 11/26	Sun 11/27
 52/28	 49/27	 48/25	 44/23	 38/24
Mainly sunny. High 52F. Winds light and variable.	Sunshine. Highs in the upper 40s and lows in the upper 20s.	Sunny. Highs in the upper 40s and lows in the mid 20s.	Rain and snow showers. Highs in the mid 40s and lows in the low 20s.	Abundant sunshine. Highs in the upper 30s and lows in the mid 20s.

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Canyon and Columbia mines.

Mines in the Wasatch Plateau coal field accounted for 60 percent of Utah's coal production in 2004, down from 68.8 percent in 2003.

The primary reason for the decrease was Skyline's closure. The mine dropped from producing 2.8 million short tons in 2003 to 551,000 short tons in 2004, an 80.1 percent decrease.

In addition, production at Co-op's Bear Canyon mines declined by 52.5 percent in 2004. Crandall Canyon production declined by 17.9 percent and Deer Creek production was down by 14.8 percent.

Conversely, production from Sufco, the largest coal mine in Utah, increased by 6.2 percent in 2004.

Production at the Horizon mine nearly tripled from 108,000 short tons in 2003 to 292,000 short tons in 2004.

Production resumed in the Emery coal field in 2002. The reopened Emery mine produced 243,000 short tons in 2003 before re-closing in August 2002 due to contract and ownership issues.

The Emery mine reopened in August 2004, producing 256,000 short tons before the year was finished, and is expected to remain open for the indefinite future.

The remainder of Utah's coal fields have remained inactive for years, points out the state's latest forecast report.

Several fields like the Kaiparowits Plateau, which containing an estimated 9.1 billion tons of recoverable coal, cannot be mined because of land-use restrictions and/or locations too remote for economical transport to market.

But a surface mine is being proposed in the Alton coal field in southern Utah. The mine has the potential to produce an

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But a surface mine is being proposed in the Alton coal field in southern Utah. The mine has the potential to produce up to 2.0 million short tons of coal a year, concluded the state report.