



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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## INSPECTION REPORT

Partial:  Complete:  Exploration:   
Inspection Date & Time: June 26 & 27, 1996, 10:00 am - 2:45; 10:00 am - 3:45 pm  
Date of Last Inspection: May 28, 1996

Mine Name: White Oak Mining and Construction Co. County: Carbon Permit Number: ACT/007/001

Permittee and/or Operator's Name: Scofield Route, Helper, UT 84526

Business Address: SAME

Type of Mining Activity: Underground  Surface  Prep. Plant  Other

State Official(s): Ken Wyatt

Company Official(s): Maurice Turpin, John Walters (6/27)

Federal Official(s): None

Weather Conditions: Partly cloudy, cool, scattered showers

Existing Acreage: Permitted- 140.2 Disturbed-  Regraded-  Seeded-  Bonded-

Increased/Decreased: Permitted-  Disturbed-  Regraded-  Seeded-  Bonded-

Status: Exploration/  Active/  Inactive/  Temporary Cessation/  Bond Forfeiture  
Reclamation (Phase I/  Phase II/  Final Bond Release/  Liability Year)

### REVIEW OF PERMIT, PERFORMANCE STANDARDS & PERMIT CONDITION REQUIREMENTS

#### Instructions

- Substantiate the elements on this inspection by checking the appropriate performance standard.
  - For complete inspections provide narrative justification for any elements not fully inspected unless element is not appropriate to the site, in which case check N/A.
  - For partial inspections check only the elements evaluated.
- Document any noncompliance situation by referencing the NOV issued at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
- Reference any narratives written in conjunction with this inspection at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
- Provide a brief status report for all pending enforcement actions, permit conditions, Division Orders, and amendments.

	EVALUATED	N/A	COMMENTS	NOV/ENF
1. PERMITS, CHANGE, TRANSFER, RENEWAL, SALE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. SIGNS AND MARKERS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. TOPSOIL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE:				
a. DIVERSIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. OTHER SEDIMENT CONTROL MEASURES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. WATER MONITORING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. EXPLOSIVES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. DISPOSAL OF EXCESS SPOIL/FILLS/BENCHES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7. COAL MINE WASTE/REFUSE PILES/IMPOUNDMENTS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. NONCOAL WASTE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. SLIDES AND OTHER DAMAGE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. CONTEMPORANEOUS RECLAMATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. BACKFILLING AND GRADING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. REVEGETATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. SUBSIDENCE CONTROL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. CESSATION OF OPERATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. ROADS:				
a. CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/SURFACING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. DRAINAGE CONTROLS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. SUPPORT FACILITIES/UTILITY INSTALLATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. AVS CHECK (4th Quarter-April, May, June) <u>6/26/96</u> (date)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. AIR QUALITY PERMIT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21. BONDING & INSURANCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

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PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/001

DATE OF INSPECTION: June 26 - 27, 1996

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

1. **PERMITS, CHANGE, TRANSFER, RENEWAL, SALE**

The permit transfer from Valley Camp of Utah to White Oak Mining and Construction was approved in May 1994 by Jim Carter, Director for the Division.

The UPDES permit, UT0022985, for White Oak was issued on August 19, 1992 and expires August 31, 1997. This allows discharge into Mud Creek from the Loadout and Whiskey Creek from the mine. The permittee was reminded that re-application for renewal of the UPDES permit is required 180 days prior to expiration which would be in March 1997.

The UPDES permit was transferred from Valley Camp of Utah to White Oak in an approval letter from Don Ostler, Director of the Division of Water Quality, on October 18, 1993.

The Spill Prevention and Counter Control plan was available.

2. **SIGNS AND MARKERS**

Mine identification signs were posted at the turnoff to the mine at Eccles Canyon and at the loadout entrance. Perimeter markers, stream buffer zone signs and topsoil signs were posted. Additional perimeter markers were recently installed by the permittee along Eccles Creek. These markers better depict the permit area along the creek and highway turnout.

3. **TOPSOIL**

The topsoil stockpile located up Whiskey Canyon above the mine is well vegetated. Recent deer activity <sup>s</sup>have impacted many of the strawbale sediment controls in this area. Mr Walters discussed the use of silt fences as alternatives to the strawbales.

At the loadout, the stockpile of substitute topsoil is protected by a berm and vegetation and is posted with a sign. Along the east side by the railroad tracks the strawbale berm had been hit by railroad grading equipment and will need to be replaced. White Oak will need to repair this berm.

4a. **HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: DIVERSIONS**

Nov N96-7-2-3 #1 of 3 was written on May 2, 1996 for ditches, culverts and diversions within the permit area. White Oak has conducted a significant amount of maintenance to abate this NOV. Several extensions were granted to the permittee to allow time to receive and install several flexible culvert down spouts. These downspout were installed and functional. This NOV was terminated.

4b. **SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS**

The 1st quarter 1996 sediment pond inspections were not performed as the site was under snow. The second quarter inspections were conducted in May. Mentioned in these reports were Pond 005 needing repair of the oil skimmer. Pond 004 is in need of cleaning. Pond 001 is in need of minor repair of the inlet.

The mine sediment pond was discharging an estimated 30 gallons per minute. The pond was receiving water from the snow stock pile at the truck loading loop and from the springs which drain into the fan portal. The effluent was clear and would meet the settleable solids limit.

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4b. **SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS (cont.)**

Pond 003 was dry on June 26. Rains overnight resulted in water in this pond on June 27. The NOV written in March 1996 is still open. The permittee intends to dig out the temporary material used to seal the pond and install a bentonite liner to prevent further leakage. The pond will then be surveyed to produce as-built drawings. Equipment cannot access the pond's interior until the base is dry. White oak needs to submit a request to extend the abatement deadline beyond the 90 day limit. The strawbales and brattice cloth used to treat water leaking from this pond has been removed. White Oak needs to continue to monitor this pond for leaks until the repair work is complete. The permittee was given until August 10, 1996 to complete this work since the weather has continued to cause wet conditions.

4c. **OTHER SEDIMENT CONTROL MEASURES**

The permit area encompasses six ASCAs within the mine area, loadout and office complex. These are listed below.

ASCA 1: North of truck maintenance at loadout

This area is the downslope from the truck maintenance shop. A silt fence is used to treat any runoff from this slope.

ASCA 2: Loadout entrance

The drainage from the truck entrance is directed through a series of strawbale check dams.

ASCA 3: Old office complex across from loadout

The area around the office complex is well vegetated.

ASCA 4: Culinary water tanks at mine

The area around the water tank is vegetated. Any runoff from this area flows into the undisturbed diversion above the portal area. This diversion drains into a small catch basin at the terminus of the diversion

ASCA 5: Pumphouse area at mine

The pumphouse is well vegetated. Any runoff flows through a thick grass area prior to *LEAVING THE DISTURBED AREA.*

ASCA 6: Electrical substation at mine

The area around the substation is graveled. Runoff from the pad area flows to Whisky Creek and is treated through a small catch basin and strawbale check dam.

4d. **WATER MONITORING**

No water monitoring is conducted during the first quarter 1996. The 2nd quarter results have not been returned from the laboratory.

4e. **EFFLUENT LIMITS**

No discharge was occurring from the mine water pond and the sediment ponds at the loadout. The mine sediment pond was discharging approximately 30 gallons per minute. The quality was clear.

6. **DISPOSAL OF EXCESS SPOIL/FILLS/BENCHES**

On November 28, 1995, the Division sent White Oak's Division Order 95A. This order required White Oak to submit design information for the area north of the mine office where sediment pond clean out material was placed. Following a hearing at the Division office on February 15, 1996, it was agreed that the material in question would be classified as spoil. The area was approved as a spoil management storage area in a letter from Joe Helfrich to Mark Wayment dated March 14, 1996.

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The mining and reclamation plan describes the operation of the spoil management area. The area will be managed to allow sediment pond clean out material to be placed in 1 foot lifts and compacted. During this inspection the material looked as though it had been end dumped with no compaction. No evidence was observed that the material had been placed in 1 foot lifts. Two significant impoundments were observed on the surface of this spoil. No positive surface drainage has been maintained. As a result of this condition, NOV N96-7-3-1 was issued to White Oak from the Division on July 2, 1996. This NOV reads as follows:

**NOV N96-7-3-1**

Violation No. 1 of 1

**Nature of Violation**

Failure to conduct coal mining activities in accordance with the approved mining and reclamation plan.

**Provisions of the act, regulations or permit violated**

R645-301-142

R645-301-514.100 et seq.

R645-301-535 et seq.

R645-301-745 et seq.

**Portion of the operation to which notice applies**

Spoils management area as described on page O14 of 14 and Plate R645-301-231.300 #4 of 4 in the White Oak MRP. This area had no drainage provisions and was impounding water in two areas during this inspection. Placement and compaction is not in accordance with the approved permit.

**Remedial action required (including any interim steps)**

A. Conduct spoil management in accordance with the approved permit.

B. Provide to the Division a Professional Engineer certified report demonstrating proper placement and compaction of the spoil material.

**Abatement time**

A. Immediately

B. 30 days, No later than 5:00 pm August 1, 1996.

White Oak needs to address the problem of seeps from the cut slope creating impoundments on this spoil. If wet weather seeps are a continual problem, then the design engineer should incorporate some type of drain system as specified in R645-301-745.120. Additionally, the material has been stockpiled with no apparent management practices utilized. It may require removal, stockpiling and then re-worked in accordance with the specified one foot lift. The surface configuration will need to be maintained to promote positive drainage.

8. **NONCOAL WASTE**

Non coal waste is temporarily stored in dumpsters located at the mine site and the loadout. These are periodically hauled to an approved disposal facility for disposal. No problems were noted with Non coal waste storage.

14. **SUBSIDENCE CONTROL**

The 1995 subsidence survey was conducted on September 6 and 7, 1995. The 1995 annual report was delivered to the Division on March 29, 1996. This report states: "Little overall change was found between the 1994 and 1995 subsidence surveys except for some additional weathering of the subsidence features and a few extensions of cracks at localized areas. Some corrections have been made and one new feature (#50) was added south of the White Oak mines." This new feature is an extension crack 3 feet deep, 2 - 5 feet wide and 100 yards long.

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**16a. ROADS: CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/SURFACING**

Many areas along the haul road are showing signs of disrepair. Mr. Turpin indicated that White Oak is in the process of getting bids for re-surfacing the haul road. A short rain storm occurred during this inspection. Water was observed flowing into many of these cracks and openings. No undercutting or piping of the road was seen.

**16b. ROADS: DRAINAGE CONTROLS**

Road drainages within the permit area were functioning as designed. The haul road ditches and drop boxes were recently cleaned as a result of NOV N96-7-2-3 #1. The road berm which was subject to NOV N96-7-3-2 #3 of 3 required White Oak to repair the berms along the haul road and to repair an erosion gully caused by water leaking from Culvert C-23-24. White oak submitted a proposed plan to repair this erosion. This plan was verbally approved in a meeting on June 12, 1996.

**17. OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES**

White Oak is planning to expand their coal stockpile. They are working with the Utah Dept. of Transportation, the Army Corp of Engineers to facilitate the permitting of this expansion project. area to the south is a potential wetland. White Oak has requested that the Army Corp of Engineers visit the site to assess this potential wetland and possible mitigation should White Oak pursue the coal pile expansion. No formal submittal has been received by the Division regarding this permit amendment.

**19. AVS CHECK**

During the complete inspection for the fourth quarter fiscal year (2nd quarter calendar year), the Division conducts an Applicant Violator System report for each mine. During the last couple of years, White Oak has indicated that no personnel changes have occurred. According to the June AVS report for White Oak, several personnel have changed. In a letter from Pam Grubaugh-Littig to Mark Wayment dated June 21, 1996, Mr. Wayment was informed of the need to correct this information. July 22, 1996 is the deadline for White Oak to correct the AVS information to avoid enforcement action..

**21. BONDING & INSURANCE**

On June 20, 1995, the Division approved a reduction in the bond from \$5,891,000 to \$3,398,000 in amendment 95A. This covers 140.2 acres of disturbance.

Insurance for \$2,000,000 general and \$2,000,000 for automobile was provided from Accordia of Lexington, Federal Insurance Co. This policy, number 3710-45-17, was issued on September 14, 1995 effective through September 16, 1996.

Copy of this Report:

Mailed to: Mark Wayment, (White Oak) James Fulton, (OSM)  
Given to: Joe Helfrich, (DOGM) Filed To: Price Field Office

Inspector's Signature: *Ken Wyatt* Date: July 12, 1996