



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor
Ted Stewart
Executive Director
James W. Carter
Division Director

355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203
801-538-5340
801-359-3940 (Fax)
801-538-5319 (TDD)

INSPECTION REPORT

Partial: Complete: Exploration:
Inspection Date & Time: September 26, 1996, 9:30 am - 1:30 pm
Date of Last Inspection: August 6, 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): John Walters

Federal Official(s): None

Weather Conditions: Partly cloudy, cool, windy

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. DISPOSAL OF EXCESS SPOIL/FILLS/BENCHES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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) _____ (date)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. AIR QUALITY PERMIT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21. BONDING & INSURANCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



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PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/001

DATE OF INSPECTION: September 26, 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.

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 will 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, perimeter markers, and topsoil signs were posted as required.

3. **TOPSOIL**

The topsoil stockpile located up Whiskey Canyon above the mine is well vegetated. Mr Walters has replaced some of the straw bales with silt fences. No flow was experienced through these silt fences from the recent precipitation. Water was observed impounded behind the sediment control structures.

At the loadout, the stockpile of substitute topsoil is protected by a berm and new silt fence material has been installed along the railroad side of this stockpile.

4a. **HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: DIVERSIONS**

The undisturbed diversion above the mine office and above the coal stockpile were in good condition. Most disturbed area diversions were in good repair. Diversion and ditches at the loadout were also in good repair.

4b. **SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS**

The 2nd and 3rd quarter 1996 sediment pond inspection reports were examined. The third quarter inspection was done on August 21, 1996. Both reports mentioned the need to clean sediment pond 004. According to Mr. Walters, White Oak still intends to clean this pond as soon as they get the spoil management area is completed and ready to accept waste from the pond. None of the sediment ponds at the loadout and mine site were discharging.

Snow removal and storage has been an historic problem at this mine due to its high elevation. Mr. Walters indicated that he would like to store snow at the mine above the sediment pond. During the inspection several seeps were observed on the slope south of pond 004. These could be the result of water infiltrating into the slope from snow stored at the truck turnaround.

4c. **OTHER SEDIMENT CONTROL MEASURES**

Many of the sediment control structures have been recently maintained with silt fences replacing straw bales. This reduces the amount of damage created by grazing animals.

4d. **WATER MONITORING**

Water monitoring results were examined for the 2nd quarter. White Oak has been collecting baseline water quality for areas to the east of the loadout, areas to the south of the mine and areas around Electric Lake in Coal

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4d. **WATER MONITORING**

and Cox canyons. The 3rd quarter results have not been returned from the consultant. Examination of the data revealed that many of the required baseline parameters were not included in the laboratory analysis. White Oak should examine the required baseline parameters list to determine future analysis needs.

4e. **EFFLUENT LIMITS**

No discharge was occurring from any water treatment facility at the mine and the loadout. Pond 004 is the only pond reported to have discharged during the 2nd quarter. The DMRs for the 2nd quarter were examined. No problems were noted.

5. **EXPLOSIVES**

Mr Walters mentioned that White Oak would be cleaning up the bench southeast of the sediment pond above the water well house. They would like to move the explosive magazines out this area. This would involve revising the surface facilities map.

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

The sub drain system for the spoil management area was being surveyed and constructed during this inspection. Once completed the remaining spoil material will be placed in lifts and compacted. White Oak has until 5:00 pm on Monday September 30, 1996 to complete this area and submit a certified engineer report to the Division specifying the as-built construction of the spoil management area.

Mr. Walters stated that White Oak intends to work through the weekend to complete the construction of the area by the September 30th deadline. Sediment pond clean out material excavated from pond 004 will then be placed in 1 foot lifts and compacted for disposal.

On September 30, 1996, White Oaks delivered a letter via FAX to the Division to address this NOV. This was returned to White Oak and they were instructed to deliver a certified engineer report as required by the NOV. The deadline for this submittal is October 11, 1996.

7. **COAL MINE WASTE/REFUSE PILES/IMPOUNDMENTS**

Sediment pond 004 at the mine is in need of cleaning. This was mentioned in several of the previous quarterly pond inspections in 1995 and 1996. Mr. Walters said that White Oak still intended to clean the pond this fall. If the pond does not get cleaned White Oak will need to conduct a survey of the pond to demonstrate that it still has adequate capacity.

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. The dumpsters on site were nearly empty.

14. **SUBSIDENCE CONTROL**

White Oak completed the 1996 subsidence surveys in mid September. The results will be forthcoming in the annual report.

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

Mr. Walters indicated that White Oak recently received bids for re-surfacing the haul road and is currently evaluation their options for re-surfacing.

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16b. **ROADS: DRAINAGE CONTROLS**

Road drainages within the permit area were functioning as designed. The haul road ditches and drop boxes were in good repair. Some vegetation was observed coming through the erosion control matting below culvert C-23-24 where White Oak backfilled the erosion of the road down slope.

There are several areas along the haul road where White oak has repaired the berm using concrete blocks. These may become compliance issues when snow removal activities begin. White Oak should use care during snow removal to insure that this berm is not graded off of the road. I recommended that Mr. Walters review White Oak's snow removal section of the permit. He indicated that he would like to store snow at the mine at the uphill embankment of sediment pond 004.

17. **OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES**

White Oak is planning to expand their coal stockpile and construct an additional lane for entry into the loadout. They are working with the Utah Dept. of Transportation, the Army Corp of Engineers to facilitate the permitting of this project. It was recommended that White Oak organize an on site meeting prior to winter with pertinent Division staff who would be permitting this amendment. This would give Mr. Walters an idea of possible permitting concerns. No formal submittal has been received by the Division regarding this permit amendment.

20. **AIR QUALITY PERMIT**

The State Division of Air Quality had issued an Air Quality permit to Valley Camp of Utah. On September 24, 1996, White Oak requested that this permit be transferred to White Oak Construction and Mining Company.

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. The reduction in costs result from methods of concrete demolition, onsite disposal of broken concrete and recycling steel structures.

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 recently issued to White Oak on September 16, 1996 effective through October 16, 1996. Mr. Walters said that this policy was issued for only one month to allow time for it to be reviewed.

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: October 17, 1996