

0024



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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## INSPECTION REPORT

Partial: XXX Complete:      Exploration:       
Inspection Date & Time: 09/14/2001 / 9 AM-11 AM  
Date of Last Inspection: 08/06/2001

*OK*  
*Post by [signature]*

Mine Name: White Oak #1 and #2 County: Carbon Permit Number: C/007/001  
Permittee and/or Operator's Name: Lodestar Energy, Inc.  
Business Address: HC 35 Box 370, Helper, Utah 84526  
Type of Mining Activity: Underground XXX Surface      Prep. Plant      Other       
Company Official(s): Mr. Kit Pappas, Engineering Dept.  
State Official(s): Peter Hess Federal Official(s): None  
Weather Conditions: Cool, mid 60's Fahrenheit; clear skies.  
Existing Acreage: Permitted 3906 Disturbed 140.2 Regraded      Seeded       
Status: Active XXX

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

- 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. SIGNS AND MARKERS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. TOPSOIL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. EXPLOSIVES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. DISPOSAL OF EXCESS SPOIL/FILLS/BENCHES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. COAL MINE WASTE/REFUSE PILES/IMPOUNDMENTS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 ISSUES	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. BACKFILLING AND GRADING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. REVEGETATION	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. ROADS:				
a. CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/SURFACING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. DRAINAGE CONTROLS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. SUPPORT FACILITIES/UTILITY INSTALLATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. AVS CHECK (4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter- April, May, June)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. AIR QUALITY PERMIT	<input 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)

PERMIT NUMBER: C/007/001

DATE OF INSPECTION: 09/14/2001

( COMMENTS ARE NUMBERED TO CORRESPOND WITH TOPICS LISTED ABOVE )

Note: As of today's inspection, the permittee indicated that underground extraction would probably end within one week. As noted, on September 24, 2001, the permittee now indicates yet another week of underground mining.

#### 4A. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: DIVERSIONS

The permittee has removed the lighting apparatus, crib blocks and roof bolt plates from the ditch which is located NE of the truck loading loop, which drains directly to pond 004A.

The permittee has removed the broken lengths of timber from the ditch just outby the #1 portal of the Belina #2 Mine.

The permittee has redefined the diversion ditch designated as D-6 at the rail loading facility. The ditch lies between the truck maintenance shop and the undisturbed outslope above Mud Creek.

#### 4C. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: OTHER SEDIMENT CONTROL MEASURES

The sediment control structures along the Belina primary coal haul road were examined this day. The Mine permit area received heavy rains and  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch hail on the afternoon of 9/13/2001. All of the sediment control structures appeared to be in good working order in spite of the intensity of the event. Only a few minor maintenance items were identified, of which Mr. Pappas made note.

A volume of compressed coal material (fines) was observed on the access road to pond 004A due east of where the culvert designated C-34-24 crosses under the road. The fines covered an area about eleven feet wide and twenty feet in length. The grade of the road is to the NE, and any runoff from this coal material had potential to run off the permit without treatment. This was pointed out to Mr. Pappas. It was suggested that the material be pushed into a pile located on the north side of the cross ditch reporting to ditch D-34B, thence to a sediment basin. Mr. Pappas agreed to have this done.

A pile of dirt accumulated during the snow removal process was observed to be placed at the head of the vegetated outslope SW of the powder and detonator storage magazines. It was suggested that this material be removed and placed on the active area of the refuse pile.

Two small piles of coal (approximately 20 cubic feet) were observed on the pad SSW of the Mine site maintenance shop. These were cleaned up during the course of today's inspection.

## INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

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### 4D. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: WATER MONITORING

The permittee is currently conducting water monitoring for the third quarter of 2001.

Mr. Pappas indicated that he had been queried by Ms. Vicki Miller, (who conducts the surface and ground water monitoring for the permittee), relative to the affect of the increase in flow in Eccles Creek from the increased Mine water discharge from the Skyline Mine. Both Eccles Creek and Mud Creek are running at high flow capacity. Ms. Miller's concern comes from a potential effect on some of the White Oak parameters due to the increased flow from above the White Oak permit area. Mr. Pappas indicated that he had informed Ms. Miller to conduct the monitoring but to make note of the increased flows in the field reporting notes.

### 8. NONCOAL WASTE

The lubricant storage facility located 100 feet south of the maintenance shop (Mine site facility) contained numerous empty lubricant containers in a disorderly array. Several pieces of clear plastic wrap which is used to bind the containers into a single unit upon a pallet were thrown about with disregard.

An open gallon container containing gear oil was observed lying on its side by a vehicle parked by the administration building. Mr. Pappas removed this and properly disposed of same.

Two empty pallets and several empty concrete sacks were observed near the manway portal for the #2 Mine.

It is recommended that the permittee conduct a general mine site cleanup of noncoal waste materials on a regular basis.

### 14. SUBSIDENCE CONTROL

An analysis of the subsidence monitoring data, as submitted by the permittee in the year 2000 annual report, was completed by this individual on September 5.

The permittee monitors 67 surface impacts via the annual surface walkover/evaluation. Impacts range from surface cracks to slumps of ground. The White Oak operation has dealt with two seam extractions under shallow cover over most of its life, which leads to the more severe impacts. The three monitoring stations located in Coal and Cox Canyons revealed no subsidence in those areas. The 2000 subsidence survey monitoring map is P.E. certified by Mr. Dave Miller. An analysis of the monitoring data is included as part of the annual report in Appendix "B".

**INSPECTION REPORT**

(Continuation sheet)

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**15. CESSATION OF OPERATIONS**

As noted above, underground coal recovery in the #2 Mine is close to completion. The permittee currently has an amendment (C/007/001-SR01-A) in the Division's review process which would allow the contour surface stripping of approximately 600,000 tons from the upper and lower O'Connor seams. Mr. Pappas was queried as to the permittee's intent relative to the status of the underground openings should a lengthy period of time occur prior to the final approval of the contour stripping amendment. Mr. Pappas surmised that the permittee would continue to operate the Mine fan, or at the very least chain link the openings to prevent unauthorized access into the #2 Mine. The Mine site is not patrolled on weekends. This appears to tentatively meet the requirements of R645-301-529.100.

**21. BONDING AND INSURANCE**

As noted in the August inspection report, the permittee's general liability insurance was due to expire on August 31, 2001. Mr. Pappas indicated that although, according to Lodestar's corporate headquarters, the premium has been paid, they have not received the necessary Acord form for transmittal to the Division. Mr. Pappas stated that the permittee's coverage provider was headquartered in the New York World Trade Center, which was the recipient of terrorist activities on September 11, 2001.

Inspector's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Peter Hess #46

Date: September 19, 2001

Note: This inspection report does not constitute an affidavit of compliance with the regulatory program of the Division of Oil, Gas & Mining.

cc: James Fulton, OSM  
David Miller, Lodestar  
Price Field office

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