



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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by  
SD*

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## INSPECTION REPORT

Partial      Complete XXX Exploration       
Inspection Date: 08/06/2002 /Time: 8:15-11:15AM  
Date of Last Inspection: 07/25/2002

Mine Name: White Oak Complex/Whiskey Creek 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  
Company Official(s): Mr. Kit Pappas, Environmental Coordinator  
State Official(s): Peter Hess Federal Official(s): None  
Weather Conditions: Overcast, cool; 70's Fahrenheit  
Type of Mining Activity: Underground Surface XXX Prep Plant      Other       
Existing Acreage: Permitted 3906 Disturbed 140.2 Regraded      Seeded       
Status: Active

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

1. Substantiate the elements on this inspection by checking the appropriate performance standard.
  - a. 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.
  - b. For partial inspections check only the elements evaluated.
2. Document any noncompliance situation by referencing the NOV issued at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
3. Reference any narratives written in conjunction with this inspection at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
4. 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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. NONCOAL WASTE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. BACKFILLING AND GRADING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. REVEGETATION	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. SUBSIDENCE CONTROL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 (4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter- April, May, June)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**INSPECTION REPORT**  
(Continuation Sheet)

PERMIT NUMBER: C/007/001

DATE OF INSPECTION: 08/07/2002

(COMMENTS ARE NUMBERED TO CORRESPOND WITH TOPICS LISTED ABOVE)

Note: The topic "permit by rule" which is relative to on-site disposal of solid and hazardous waste was discussed with Mr. Pappas. At this time, the only material that appears to possibly be a concern is the asphalt material used as surfacing on the Belina haul road. The currently approved reclamation plan is such that this road will be completely reclaimed, with the disposal of this material to be accomplished off-site. At this time, a permit condition (#6, Attachment A) exists in which certain decisions must come to agreement with the surface landowners, the heirs of Milton Oman, LTD. One of these decisions will more than likely affect the reclamation of the Belina haul road. If the heirs make the decision that the road should be left in place, then specific responsibilities must be established during the phases of bond release. The extent of reclamation, (i.e., total, partial) of the road must also be established.

Mr. Dave Miller indicated that he may possibly look at a reduction in bond amount by disposing of the asphalt within the mine's permit area. This would require a "permit by rule" determination via DEQ / Bureau of Solid and Hazardous Waste as well as permitting through the Division.

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

The permittee submitted a copy of the proposed mitigation plan for the subsidence impact designated as #23 located in Boarding House Canyon during today's inspection. A copy of this plan has been forwarded to the surface management agency (USDA / Manti-LaSal National Forest). The tracking number for this amendment is C/007/001-02B.

**3. TOPSOIL**

The removal and storage of topsoil at the Whiskey Creek operation is an ongoing process. Topsoil is being temporarily stored adjacent to the mine's coal stacking tube. Topsoil has been removed from pit areas #9 and 10, as designated on the currently approved Plate 5-1C. Topsoil has also been removed from approximately two-thirds of pit #4 and pit #5 as depicted on Plate 5-1C. As noted in the 07/25/2002 inspection report, Mr. Miller is currently revising the mining sequence for the surface operation. This is based on the permittee going to a two-shift operation as well as the necessity to recover upper O'Connor coal in the pit #4 area. Mr. Miller estimates that approximately 30,000 tons of product can be recovered from the upper seam in the pit #4 area.

The permittee indicated that the topsoil recovery report, which is being prepared by Mr. Dan Larsen of Environmental Industrial Services, Inc., is still being compiled.

**4B. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS**

Mr. Pappas performed the second quarter impoundment inspection for the site's five sediment containment structures on May 14, 2002. All ponds were reported as having no hazardous conditions or signs of structural weakness. Mr. Dave Miller performed the inspection of Dugout pond D-1 on the same day. As noted in the June 3, 2002 inspection report, water was still being routed through this pond. In the 07/09/2002 report, the pond had been breeched via the overburden removal process. As observed this day, pond D-1 is no longer in existence.

There were no problems noted with any of the site's impoundments during today's field inspection.

**INSPECTION REPORT**  
(Continuation Sheet)

PERMIT NUMBER: C/007/001

DATE OF INSPECTION: 08/07/2002

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

The straw bale dikes that have been installed to treat collected runoff along the Belina haul road were inspected and found to be in good operating condition. The site received a moderate event on Sunday night, 08/04/2002. There were no failures observed at any of these sediment treatment structures.

**4D. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: WATER MONITORING**

The permittee had submitted all second quarter water monitoring information for the White Oak permit area as of July 25, 2002. The monitoring regimes for the third quarter remain to be initiated.

Discharge monitoring reports for the months of May, June, and July 2002 were reviewed. As discussed below, the Dugout pond D-1 was discharging on May 14, 2002. There were no other outfalls from any of the other permitted discharge points. All reports have been submitted in a timely fashion.

Water monitoring information, as submitted for the second quarter, was reviewed. Surface monitoring sites VC-4, VC-5, COX, and COAL were reported as having no flow. All other surface and ground water sites had reportable chemistries with cation / anion balances within the acceptable error range.

**4E. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS**

A UPDES parameter exceedance of one-tenth of a milligram / liter for total iron (1.1 mg/l) was observed on the discharge monitoring report form for the May 14 sample flowing from the Dugout D-1 pond. This is not a significant or harmful quantity to the environment or public health. As indicated within the permittee's UPDES reporting requirements, only those exceedances that could cause significant harm to the environment or to the safety of the public need be reported within a 24-hour period, or within 5 days via written notification to the Division of Water Quality.

**5. EXPLOSIVES**

The permittee conducted the first interburden shot utilizing the expertise of Dyno-Nobel on August 3, 2002. Mr. Doug Lawley is the Utah certified coal mine surface blaster conducting the work. Fifty-nine 6.75-inch holes were shot utilizing a 0.80 powder factor, (279# of explosive per delay). The permittee is much happier with the results of that shot, having achieved adequate breakage, with very little fly rock.

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

Mr. Pappas conducted the second quarter spoil pile inspection on May 14, 2002. The south end of this pile was reduced in size by the contour mining process. There were no signs of instability, erosion, or structural weakness reported. Mr. Dave Miller, P.E., certified the inspection report on the day of the inspection.

**9. PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES**

The permittee has received the finances necessary to dispose of the electrical transformers that have been determined as containing polychlorinated biphenyls. A contractor is in place to remove this environmental liability.

INSPECTION REPORT  
(Continuation Sheet)

PERMIT NUMBER: C/007/001

DATE OF INSPECTION: 08/07/2002

Mr. Pappas was informed this day, that although the permittee has used herbicide to attempt to control musk thistle about the site, it is necessary to clip and bag the seed heads to neuter these noxious weeds. Musk thistle has been a problem at the Whiskey Creek site for many years. The thistle that was observed this day existed along the access road to the topsoil stockpile located southeast of pond 004. Some seed heads had drooped due to the herbicide application.

**11. CONTEMPORANEOUS RECLAMATION**

Mr. Shane Hansen, surface foreman, indicated that the remnants of the electrical substation would be dismantled in the very near future. Utah Power and Light Co. de-energized this facility several months ago.

**12. BACKFILLING AND GRADING**

The permittee was observed placing material to backfill a portion of pit #3, (See Plate 5-1C), located in the lower O'Connor.

**20. AIR QUALITY PERMIT**

Water sprays were operating on the paved truck loop at the rail loading facility.

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

  
Peter Hess #46

Date: August 7, 2002

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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