

August 10, 1982

Inspection Memo
to Coal File

RE: UCO Incorporated
CEP/007/001
Carbon County, Utah

Division Inspectors Ken Wyatt and John Whitehead toured the exploration site of UCO Incorporated on August 5, 1982. The purpose of the inspection was to review the status of the exploration activities performed by UCO and examine the extent of reclamation work which had been conducted.

The eight drill hole sites drilled during 1980 were inspected. What appeared to be the #3 hole, as indicated on the 1980 submittal should have been cemented. In fact, this hole was left open to a depth of approximately 30 feet. This would constitute a dangerous situation that the operator needs to correct. The exploration holes drilled during 1980, were completed for the most part on an established road and reclamation required for these holes would be minimal due to the road's use in the proposed mine.

Eleven of twelve drill sites identified for the 1981 exploration work were examined and several deviations from the exploration plan were noted. The correct number of holes appeared to have been drilled, however, their locations were not as identified on the map submitted to the Division October 5, 1981. One additional drill hole was noted on the extreme SW 1/4, SW 1/4, Sec. 36, R. 6 E., T. 12 S., which was not on the map received by the Division. Additionally, two more holes were identified on the south side of the Winter Quarters Canyon Creek which were not in place according to the map received by the Division. The stream crossing and new road which had to be installed on the south side of Winter Quarters Canyon Creek for exploration during the 1981 drilling season, was not as indicated on the map on file with the Division. The exploration plan had identified that a culvert would be installed to afford a stream crossing, however a bridge-type crossing has been constructed. Additionally, the exploration plan makes commitments concerning construction of the new road which include the following:

1. Topsoil will be removed as a separate operation, stockpiled, and protected from wind and water erosion.
2. Topsoil collection will occur prior to any exploration or other surface disturbance.
3. Topsoil storage will be of short duration during the exploration program and would be redistributed immediately upon completion of the drilling program

Inspectors for the Division could not locate any topsoil stockpile from the new road construction which occurred on the south side of Winters Quarters Canyon Creek.

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Additional concern was raised during the inspection based on the lack of reclamation which had occurred to date. The reclamation plan makes commitments that mudpits will be backfilled, topsoil replaced and the site revegetated. To date, none of the six mudpits on site have been backfilled, several of them have trash in the pit and no revegetation has been undertaken.

One additional concern was noted in that the tributary which parallels the north-to-south section of the new road constructed for exploration in 1981, was impacted by timber that was taken off the road site and thrown in the stream channel. The channel conveys water from an active spring contributing to Winter Quarters Canyon Creek. This area should be cleared of timber to avoid any impact on the hydrologic balance.

In a phone conversation between Ken Wyatt and Chris Carter of UCO on August 9, 1982, several items of important note were disclosed. The easternmost drill pad site of the group of sites south of the Winter Quarters Canyon Creek was not drilled during the 1981 season. This pad site is to be used for horizontal drilling to locate the old mine workings on the south side of the creek. Mr. Jack Otani has been contracted to backfill, topsoil and reclaim all mudpit areas during the week of August 16-20, 1982. Mr. Carter stated he would contact the Division following reclamation in order to set up an inspection of the reclamation work. The drill hole west of the new exploration road on the south side of the Winter Quarters Canyon Creek is proposed as a culinary water supply for the proposed mine.

Pursuant to Division Geologist Thomas Tetting's letter of October 8, 1981, UCO, Inc., should submit a notice of completion of exploration which will include description of all variances from the original exploration plan such as:

- A. Actual drill hole locations.
- B. Pad development for lateral drilling.
- C. Actual layout and location of roads constructed for 1981 drilling.
- D. Location of proposed water well site.
- E. Location of any holes left open for monitoring.
- F. Description of reclamation completed including roads, holes and mudpits.

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While on-site, George Chadwick of Vaughn Hansen and Associates and Glen Storey of the Southeastern Utah Health District were encountered and a discussion was undertaken concerning a 10-foot pit which had been dug for percolation studies for the proposed mine's septic tank/leachfield.

John Whitehead
JOHN WHITEHEAD
OIL, GAS AND MINING
FIELD SPECIALIST

JW/tck

cc: Tom Emmett, OSM
Chris Carter, UCO Incorporated
Inspection Staff

Statistics:

See Knight Mine Memo dated August 10, 1982
Grant: A & E