

File

October 17, 1985

TO: Coal File, Inspection and Enforcement Folder  
FROM: Sandy Pruitt, Mining Field Specialist *SP*  
RE: Skyline Mine, Utah Fuel Company, ACT/007/005, Folder #7,  
Carbon County, Utah

A partial inspection of the Skyline Mine was conducted by Sandy Pruitt on August 28, 1985. This inspection was conducted in response to notification received on August 26, 1985, from Lee Ann Shirley, Regional Water Quality Office for the Southeastern Association of Local Governments, that Scofield residents were complaining to her office that sludge from the Skyline Mine was being dumped into the surface mine pit by the UP Mine. She requested that I contact Joannie Dennison at the Mountain Cavern in Scofield for a representation of their complaints. As of August 27, 1985, Lee Ann Shirley reported that the Scofield residence had barricaded the town entrance to prevent Utah Fuel from hauling materials through town to the UP strip pit until their town's conditions were met. A joint inspection with Lee Ann Shirley and Larry Dalton was arranged at that time for September 6, 1985.

Keith Zobell was contacted at the mine office on August 28, 1985. Lee Ann Shirley and Larry Dalton were at the mine office upon completion of a stream survey to inspect for damages resulting from dewatering the Skyline Mine sediment pond. As a result of their inspection, Larry Dalton reported that he observed numerous taxa and many individual macroinvertebrates in the stream which is indicative that limited impacts had occurred. Based on fish surveys conducted in early August, fish biomass is low, but that indicates a renewed generation in the fishery. Mr. Dalton reported seeing sedimentation in the stream channel, he suspected this to be a result of Forest Service dredging the North Fork stream channel above Skyline Mine or due to cattle and also due to the increased volume of the sediment pond discharge which causes scouring in the stream channel. He reported that this is a good time for this to occur since no fish were spawning at the time. He indicated seeing evidence of dark fines in the stream channel but could not determine if these were coal fines or fine clay particles.

The mine sediment pond was not discharging at the time of this inspection. The water level was below all discharge points in the standpipe and sediments were being removed from the pond with a drag line. Sediments were placed in dump trucks and hauled through town to the Scofield Waste Rock disposal pit (i.e. UP strip pit). The sediments were dumped into the pit where Utah Fuel had constructed a ramp which blocked the access road into the pit. The wet sediments were spread out as much as possible to dry using a tractor dozer.

Utah Fuel would attempt to mix the sediments with gob material to facilitate compaction of the coarse gob material. Keith Zobell reported that the sediment pond was decanted on Thursday prior. The mine water discharge was directed to bypass the sediment pond discharging directly into Eccles Creek. Sediments were removed from the pond for disposal at both the trench at the loadout and UP pit on late Friday afternoon. Sediment disposal at the UP pit had not been approved by DOGM as there was no record of response to condition three of a DOGM conditional approval dated August 19, 1985 and plans submitted by Utah Fuel dated July 20, 1985 which specifically state that sediments would be disposed at the UP pit after the trench at the loadout is full. Therefore, NOV #2 of 2 N85-3-18-2, was warranted for conducting mining operations without a permit and the failure to comply with terms and conditions of the permit, UCA 40-10-9(1), UCA 40-10-17(2)(j)(iii), UMC 771.19. The NOV cites disposal of accumulated sediment from the mine sediment pond at the Scofield Waste Rock disposal pit. The remedial action required the submittal of complete and adequate plans for disposals of sediments at the Scofield Waste Rock Disposal Pit, no later than September 18, 1985.

The trench used for disposal of sediments at the loadout yard was modified with a dike to retain sediments and perforated flexible pipe to drain water out of the sediments. The perforated pipe floated to the surface and was not functional. A surface runoff diversion away from this fill had not been constructed as required by UMC 817.72 (d). Therefore, NOV #2 of 2 N85-2-16-2 was warranted for the failure to comply with terms and conditions of the permit and failure to divert surface runoff away from the fill, UMC 771.19, UMC 817.72 (d). The NOV cites the surface drainage ditch which was to be constructed along the north side of the trench at the loadout yard which was designated for sediment disposal. The remedial action required by this NOV was to construct the surface drainage diversion as specified in the approved plans dated July 22, 1985 sized as required in the August 19, 1985 approval letter. The abatement deadline was originally set at September 6, 1985.

Upon inspection of the disposal pit it was discovered that Utah Fuel had not posted a mine identification sign at this portion of their permit area. Therefore, NOV #1 of 2 was warranted for the failure to post a mine identification sign, UCA 40-10-19-4, UCA 817.11 (b)(c). The remedial action required that Utah Fuel post a mine identification sign as required by UMC 817.11 (c) no later than September 6, 1985.

Joannie Dennison was contacted at the Mountain Cavern following this inspection. She indicated that the problems that Scofield residents had with Utah Fuel's disposal operation were; trucks were speeding

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through town and cutting a curve without slowing down where they pass through a residential area, populated with children; also, the haul route was excessively dusty and therefore dangerous due to the limited visibility in town and along the route up to the disposal pit. After the town residents barricaded the haul route, Utah Fuel agreed to start watering the road regularly all day to reduce the dust and to slow the trucks down and manipulate the curve down as they entered the residential area.

She also indicated that the town Mayor, Doug Trease, had submitted a letter to DOGM in response to the public notification for permitting disposal at the UP strip pit about two years ago. This letter commented on the town's request that Utah Fuel Company be regulated to limit the number of haul trucks and hauling hours to the strip pit and to maintain the haul route, to the pit a section of road which is owned and maintained by the town of Scofield. Mr. Doug Trease, who was the Mayor two years ago, was contacted to confirm this letter. The letter does exist according to Mr. Trease but this inspector could not locate it in any DOGM files. If this matter is to be pursued, as it should be, the Scofield town records should be investigated to locate the public comment.

During the length of this inspection, no problems with hauling operations through town were observed with the exception that the haul route past the private gate was not being watered and was excessively dusty. Utah Fuel began watering this section of road before the end of the inspection. Sediment hauling was completed for that day, at 5:30 p.m.

re

cc: Donna Griffin, OSM  
Joe Helfrich, DOGM  
Dave Lof, DOGM  
Ken May, DOGM

Statistics: See Trail Mountain Mine memo dated October 10, 1985.  
0347Q-27-29