

December 3, 1987

TO: Coal File

FROM: Holland Shepherd, Reclamation Specialist HWS

RE: Spanish Fork Preparation Plant Facility Utilized by Utah Fuel Company, Skyline Mine, ACT/007/005, Folder #5, Carbon County, Utah

On November 13, 1987 the Division received an anonymous phone call from an individual indicating that a coal storage yard located in Spanish Fork was being operated as a preparation plant facility. Under the Division's obligation regarding the investigation of a citizen's complaint, I looked into the matter on November 27, 1987.

The caller had indicated that Searle Trucking of Spanish Fork was hauling coal from the Skyline Mine, screening the coal, and then selling it to an unknown buyer. I found the Searle Trucking yard at 1600 North Main in Spanish Fork.

At the yard I observed approximately 90 yards of coal (Bug Dust or coal fines) stockpiled in the northeast corner of the yard. Next to the coal pile I observed a small screening device used to separate lump coal from the dust. I took several pictures of the site and screening facility before leaving the yard.

I spoke to Craig Searle of Searle Trucking about the screener and the coal pile. He informed me that his company has been screening coal for Utah Fuel Company. He also informed me that the coal belonged to Utah Fuel and that Searle Trucking was acting as a contractor in hauling and screening the coal. The lump coal was being sold to the University of Utah and the dust was being returned to the Skyline Mine.

I later obtained a copy of a work order from Mrs. Searle. The work order (dated November 21, 1987) indicated that Searle Trucking had removed coal from the Utah Fuel Company Mine, hauled it

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to the Spanish Fork yard, and then returned a load of 29.74 tons of dust to the mine site. The order indicated that no purchase of the coal had been made. Mrs. Searle also informed me that the trucking company had been screening the coal for Utah Fuel Company since October of 1987.

After speaking with the Searles, I phoned Mr. Keith Zobell of Utah Fuel Company regarding this matter. Mr. Zobell informed me that he was aware of the operator's use of the Searle coalyard, but was unaware that screening was being performed at the yard. He also requested that I refrain from writing a Notice of Violation (NOV) until he was able to contact his superiors and relay back to me any new pertinent information. I explained to Mr. Zobell that I would be out of town until Wednesday of the following week, which would allow him time to contact his supervisors and then get back to me.

Neither Mr. Zobell nor any of the other operator's representatives contacted me by 5:00 pm on Wednesday, December 2, 1987. Because I was not contacted by any of the operator's representatives, I assumed that no viable explanation was available and that the operator was in violation of UMC 827.11 and UCA 1953, Section 40-10-9. These sections essentially require that an operator obtain a permit before conducting activities which fall under the definition of a coal processing facility. An NOV was issued the following day, December 3, 1987, for mining activity without a permit.

jr
cc: L. Braxton
S. Linner
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