



STATE OF UTAH  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
Oil, Gas & Mining

Norman H. Bangerter, Governor  
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**INSPECTION REPORT**

INSPECTION DATE & TIME: August 4, 1987  
1:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Permittee and/or Operators Name: Utah Fuel Company  
Business Address: P.O. Box 719, Helper, Utah 84527  
Mine Name: Skyline Mine Permit Number: ACT/007/005  
Type of Mining Activity: Underground  Surface  Other   
County: Carbon  
Company Official (s): Keith Zobell  
State Official(s): Randy Harden, Rick Summers  
Partial:  Complete:  Date of Last Inspection: 7/7/87  
Weather Conditions: Clear and Warm  
Acreage: Permitted 4,834 Disturbed 75.9 Regraded  Seeded  Bonded 75.9  
Enforcement Action: None.

**COMPLIANCE WITH PERMITS AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

	YES	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
1. PERMITS	( X )	( )	( )	( )
2. SIGNS AND MARKERS	( X )	( )	( )	( )
3. TOPSOIL	( X )	( )	( )	( )
4. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE:				
a. STREAM CHANNEL DIVERSIONS	( X )	( )	( )	( )
b. DIVERSIONS	( X )	( )	( )	( )
c. SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS	( X )	( )	( )	( X )
d. OTHER SEDIMENT CONTROL MEASURES	( X )	( )	( )	( )
e. SURFACE AND GROUNDWATER MONITORING	( X )	( )	( )	( )
f. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS	( X )	( )	( )	( X )
5. EXPLOSIVES	( )	( )	( X )	( )
6. DISPOSAL OF DEVELOPMENT WASTE AND SPOIL	( X )	( )	( )	( )
7. COAL PROCESSING WASTE	( )	( )	( X )	( )
8. NONCOAL WASTE	( X )	( )	( )	( )
9. PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES	( X )	( )	( )	( X )
10. SLIDES AND OTHER DAMAGE	( X )	( )	( )	( )
11. CONTEMPORANEOUS RECLAMATION	( )	( )	( X )	( )
12. BACKFILLING AND GRADING	( )	( )	( X )	( )
13. REVEGETATION	( )	( )	( X )	( )
14. SUBSIDENCE CONTROL	( X )	( )	( )	( )
15. CESSATION OF OPERATIONS	( )	( )	( X )	( )
16. ROADS				
a. CONSTRUCTION	( X )	( )	( )	( )
b. DRAINAGE CONTROLS	( X )	( )	( )	( X )
c. SURFACING	( X )	( )	( )	( )
d. MAINTENANCE	( X )	( )	( )	( )
17. OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES	( X )	( )	( )	( )
18. SUPPORT FACILITIES				
UTILITY INSTALLATIONS	( X )	( )	( )	( )

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(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

1. PERMITS

The operator is currently preparing the No. 1 Mine for production, roof falls and rehabilitation work in the mine have delayed startup.

4.c. SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS

and

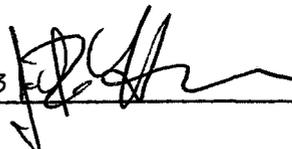
4.f. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS

Samples were taken at the Mine Facilities pond at the point of discharge.

Investigation into the cause and the treatment of the mine water with respect to algae bloom in Eccles Creek has apparently resulted in discovery of the source and methodology for treatment. A micaceous igneous dike had been encountered during mine development which appears to have initiated algae bloom and unsesttlability of mine water. The specific mineral is phlogopite, amber in color, microscopic in size and anionic in charge. It is suspected that the highly negative charge of the mica hinders settling and holds the mica, coal fines and other solids in suspension similarly to colloidal clays.

Currently, the operator is treating the mine water with NALCO 7109, whose main constituents are aluminum hydrochloride and aluminum sulfate. The flocculant is added to the mine water discharge line utilizing a metering pump. The operator has consulted with State Fish and Wildlife in regard to limits and concentrations for fish habitat and will maintain treatment well below those acceptable limits. From the appearance of the samples taken from the pond discharge, the operator is well below TSS effluent levels and it appears that the problem of the mica has been eliminated.

During the course of investigation into this problem by the operator, coordination with the State Department of Wildlife Resources, the Price River Water Improvement and Brown and Caldwell, Consulting Engineers was utilized. Prior to determination of the problem of the mica in the water, sampling and analysis for sewage and oil and grease were also made. While some indication in fecal colliform samples indicated an elevated level, it was felt that it was an indication of sewage contamination. Although the mica may have been the major contributing factor to the algae bloom, there was a contributing source of nitrates and phosphates shown in the samples. Skyline Mine has placed two probes in their sewage holding tanks such that sufficient warning will be allowed for pumping out the tanks prior to allowing the sewage to back up into two manhole connections which could potentially leak when sewage is backed into them.

Inspectors Signature and Number: #13  #13 Date: August 7, 1987

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16b. DRAINAGE CONTROLS

Straw bales utilized in the unit train loadout facilities area in the undisturbed diversion ditches and along the access roads to the storage bins had accumulated sediments. The operator was requested to clean or replace these bails in the near future so that they would continue to function properly. Mr. Zobell indicated that this would be accomplished on the following day.

18. SUPPORT FACILITIES

The coal storage area to the west of the mine offices has, for the most part, been cleared of coal. A small stockpile on the northern end of the site and some coal remains on the embankment at the south end of the pad. Mr. Zobell indicated that the coal material will be removed from the embankment shortly and due to the contamination of the coal in that area will most likely be marketed and sold separately from the ROM coal. The removal of this coal was in accordance with requests by the Forest Service to minimize surface storage of coal at the mine facilities.

Copy of this Report:

Mailed to: Donna Griffith - OSM Keith Zobell - Utah Fuel

Given to: Joe Helfrich - DOGM

Inspectors Signature and Number: #13

Date: August 7, 1987