



STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES
Oil, Gas & Mining

✓ REC 9/18/87

John

John SA

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INSPECTION REPORT

INSPECTION DATE & TIME: July 31, 1987
2:00 to 3:00

Permittee and/or Operators Name: Utah Fuel Company
Business Address: P.O. Box 719 Helper, Ut 84526
Mine Name: Skyline Mine Permit Number: ACT/007/005
Type of Mining Activity: Underground Surface Other
County: Carbon
Company Official (s): Bill Shriver
State Official(s): Holland Shepherd, Harold Sandbeck
Partial: Complete: Date of Last Inspection: 7-7-87
Weather Conditions: Sunny, warm, no runoff at site
Acreage: Permitted 4839 Disturbed 75.8 Regraded 0 Seeded 0 Bonded 75.8
Enforcement Action: none

COMPLIANCE WITH PERMITS AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

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

INSPECTION REPORT
(continuation sheet)

Page 2 of 3

PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/005

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(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

4.c. SEDIMENT POND AND 9. PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES:

This inspection was performed as a follow up to my inspection conducted on 7-7-87. During the previous inspection it was evident that the operator's upper sediment pond discharge had degenerated. Relative to that of normal, the discharge had been more turbid in appearance. Eccles Creek, into which pond drainage is discharged, had become discolored and the impact to the aquatic community was a concern.

As of this inspection the conditions in Eccles and the sediment pond has not changed. One contributing factor could be the recent heavy rains in the area which have added a considerable amount of sediment to the pond and the creek. Samples were taken of the pond effluent during this inspection. The samples were taken within 24 hours of heavy rains in the area. The analysis is not yet available at this point in time.

During the July 7 inspection, samples of the pond discharge were collected. I also took samples for fecal coliform at the outlet of the mine water discharge into the pond and at the pond outlet itself. I have received the results from the above sample analysis. The following lists the parameters evaluated from samples taken at the sediment pond on 7-7-87:

| | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| TDS | 531 mg/l |
| TSS | 21 mg/l |
| Settleable Solids | .1 mg/l |
| Oil and Grease | 1.96 mg/l |
| Iron | .91 mg/l |
| Manganese | .01 mg/l |
| Ammonia | .233 mg/l |
| Nitrate | .62 mg/l |
| Nitrite | .12 mg/l |
| Total Phos. | .025 mg/l |
| Ortho Phos. | .013 mg/l |

This evaluation meets the limitations set in the operator's NPDES permit.

The analysis for fecal coliform turned out to be completely negative according to a phone conversation with the Southeastern Utah Health District lab.

Copy of this Report:

Mailed to: Keith Zobel, Donna Griffin

Given to: Joe Helfrich

Inspectors Signature and Number: Holland Shepherd Date: 7-31-87

(9-18-87)

INSPECTION REPORT
(continuation sheet)

Page 3 of 3

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Since the outset of the sediment pond problem, the operator has been actively looking for a solution. The operator has solicited the advice of the Utah Div. of Wildlife Resources, the Price River Water Improvement District, and UDOGM. Two reports one from Wildlife Resources and the other from Brown and Caldwell, an engineering consulting firm, will be made available to the Inspection and Enforcement file. The two reports describe in detail the suspected cause of the problem, the impact on the stream, and steps to be taken to alleviate the problem.

To summarize briefly the present status of the pond, it is inconclusive that a sewage problem exists, however it is conclusive that a sediment settling problem does exist in the pond. The operator is currently chlorinating the pond to offset any sewage leakage which may have occurred and adding a Nalco cationic polymer to the mine water effluent to settle out the solids. The operator is following carefully the specifications of the Price River Water Improvement District and the Brown and Caldwell engineering firm, in adding these chemicals to the pond to avoid impacting the aquatic community of Eccles Creek.

The operator had begun treating the pond earlier in the week before this inspection. At the time of inspection, as I indicated before, there was no improvement to the pond, however, I received a call on 8-6-87 from Bill Shriver of Skyline, indicating that the pond discharge was clear and contained 0.0 mg/l suspended solids.

At this point in time no significant impact to Eccles Creek has yet been determined nor have the limitations of the operator's NPDES permit been exceeded. The operator and myself are both waiting for sample analysis to be made on samples taken of pond effluent the latter part of July.

Inspectors Signature and Number: Holland Shepherd Date: 7-31-87
(9-18-87)