



STATE OF UTAH  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
Oil, Gas & Mining

6-11-87

*File*

*John* *SCZ*

Norman H. Bangerter, Governor  
Dee C. Hansen, Executive Director  
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**INSPECTION REPORT**

INSPECTION DATE & TIME: May 21, 1987  
11:00 am 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): Bill Shriver  
State Official(s): Randy Harden  
Partial:  Complete:  Date of Last Inspection: 4/7/87  
Weather Conditions: Variable Clouds, Scattered Showers, Cool  
Acreage: Permitted 4,834 Disturbed 75.9 Regraded  Seeded  Bonded 75.9  
Enforcement Action: None.

COMPLIANCE WITH PERMITS AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
1. PERMITS	( X )	( )	( )	( X )
2. SIGNS AND MARKERS	( X )	( )	( )	( )
3. TOPSOIL	( X )	( )	( )	( )
4. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE:				
a. STREAM CHANNEL DIVERSIONS	( X )	( )	( )	( )
b. DIVERSIONS	( X )	( )	( )	( X )
c. SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS	( 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 )	( )	( )	( )
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 )	( )	( )	( X )
17. OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES	( X )	( )	( )	( X )
18. SUPPORT FACILITIES				
UTILITY INSTALLATIONS	( X )	( )	( )	( )

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(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

1. PERMITS

The Skyline Mine is currently in the process of submitting an up-to-date mining plan for the next five year permit term. Skyline's initial permanent program permit expired on April 30, 1987. The operator is in the process of finalizing responses to comments regarding technical deficiencies in the plan and minor editing and text revisions to the plan. These final resubmittals to the plan are forthcoming by the operator and it is expected that this will be the final submittal needed to determine the mining and reclamation plan complete and adequate. The operator has also submitted a modification plan to increase the size and capacity of the mine facilities sediment pond. Review of this modification will be made concurrent with review of the mining and reclamation plan for the next permit term.

4.b. DIVERSIONS

In accordance with the USFS, the Operator has established a drainage channel on the south side of the Middle Fork. Approximately 5 to 8 feet of coal remain in the bottom of the diversion where the operator had cut through the coal stockpile. Mr. Shriver pointed out that in order to remove all the coal in the bottom of the channel, that a significant amount of coal would have to be moved from the stockpile to maintain stability of the coal embankment. Mr. Shriver indicated that the coal stockpiled in this area will have priority for removal concurrent with mining operations. Once the diversion channel is completely cleared of coal and brought to the grade of the stockpile pad, no coal would be placed in that area so as to potentially impound flood water. Light snowpack and mild weather conditions indicated that the likelihood of need for the overflow outlet channel due to flooding and blocking of the primary undisturbed drainage culvert was remote during the remaining time in which coal would be allowed to remain there.

All other diversions seen at the site were found to be clear and suitably maintained. The operator was considered to be in compliance with regard to drainage structures at the site.

Inspectors Signature and Number:



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4.f. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS

On 3/18/87 a routine sample was taken from the mine facilities sediment pond by the operator. Lab results received from Ford Laboratory indicated that the oil and grease concentration was 31.1 mg/l. The maximum limitation is 10 mg/l in accordance with the NPDES permit for the pond. The operator immediately notified the EPA of the excess value. In discussing the situation with Mr. Shriver, action had been taken in the mine in order to prevent reoccurrence. All mine personnel were made aware of the situation and emphasis on oil and waste oil handling procedures was presented to the staff with emphasis being made on the environmental and regulatory ramifications of non-compliance with effluent limitations for the sediment pond. It was felt by the operator that the potential conditions for non-compliance had been resolved and further action had been taken by the operator to repeat the sample to ensure that remedial action had been effective. The operator had performed in accordance with the requirements of the NPDES permit.

During the inspection, water samples were taken at the mine facilities sediment pond discharge for oil and grease as well as TDS and TSS. Results of these samples were not yet available at the time this report was written.

Two weeks prior to the inspection, the operator had called the Division regarding an unexpectedly high iron content in the loadout facilities sediment pond. During these discussions, the operator also indicated that Mr. Shepard has also been contacted in the Price office regarding the condition of the water in the pond. Sampling attempts were underway at the site to determine the nature of the problem for possible treatment. Initial sample results indicated iron at approximately 8 mg/l with a pH of 6.5. Treatments of hydrated lime and caustic soda had been utilized in order to promote precipitation of the iron from the water.

On site discussion of the pond conditions during the inspection and visual inspection of the pond indicated that there was visible evidence of iron and high turbidity in the pond as a result of lime addition. Concerns by Mr. Shriver and Mr. Welch regarding the addition of lime and caustic soda to the pond were that the TDS and TSS values of the pond would be increased to the extent that they would also not meet effluent limitations. It was suggested by the Division that the operator should attempt oxygenation of the pond in order to help promote precipitation of the iron. The operator had previously installed a small submersible pump in the pond to promote mixing of lime in the pond. The operator took action to have a nozzle installed at the end of the pump discharge to spray the pond water and increase oxygenation of the pond water. The nozzle was installed in the pond and was operating prior to completion of the inspection.

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4.f. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS(Continued)

During inspection of the site, samples were taken from within the pond for testing by the Division. The pond was not discharging at the time of the inspection and no samples could be taken at the discharge point for the pond. The results of these samples were not available at the time this inspection report was written.

In as much as the operator was taking prudent action in order to attempt to control the problem in the loadout facilities pond and that there was no discharge from the pond at the time of the inspection, it was felt that the operator was in compliance at the time of the inspection.

16.b and d. ROAD DRAINAGE CONTROLS and MAINTENANCE

Berms and ditches found along the coal unloading loop at the loadout facilities were marginal but in operating condition at the time of the inspection. Mr. Shriver indicated that this area has had problems periodically and that a plan for modifying the area was being prepared. Jersey barriers are planned for both sides of the haul road from the gate to the point where the road width off of the fill will allow for the installation of berms and ditches. Installation of the Jersey barriers will serve two purposes in that they will control runoff from the haul road by channeling it down the road to collection ditches and that the barriers will satisfy MSHA's requirements for safety berms on that portion of the road. Snow from the road would have to be crowded down the road to the pad in the center of the haul loop and no snow would be pushed or plowed over the embankments as had previously been a problem in that area. The operator intends to submit the changes to the Division in the form of a modification to the facilities at the loadout area in the near future.

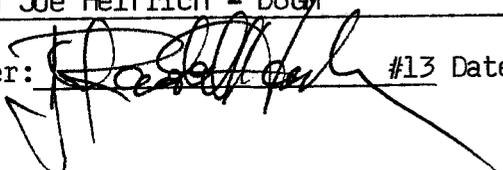
17. OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES

Skyline has installed an automated loading system for the loading bin at the mine facilities. Mr. Shiver has indicated that the installation assures that the trucks are properly loaded and has significantly reduced coal spills from overloaded trucks.

Copy of this Report:

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

Given to: Sue Linner and Joe Helfrich - DOGM

Inspectors Signature and Number:  #13 Date: 6/4/87