



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

Norman H. Bangerter

Governor

Dee C. Hansen

Executive Director

Dianne R. Nielson, Ph.D.

Division Director

355 West North Temple

3 Triad Center, Suite 350

Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203

801-538-5340

0012

INSPECTION REPORT

INSPECTION DATE & TIME: Sept. 25, 1991
9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Permittee and/or Operator's Name: Utah Fuel Company
Business Address: P. O. Box 719, Helper, UT 84526 Ph: 637-7925
Mine Name: Skyline Mine Permit Number: ACT/007/005
Type of Mining Activity: Underground Surface Other
Company Official(s): Keith Zobell, Stan Christensen
State Officials(s): Daron R. Haddock
Federal Official(s): None
Partial: Complete Date of last Inspection: Aug. 29, 1991
Weather Conditions: Fair, sunny, mild temperatures
Acreage: Permitted 4,834 Disturbed 62.5 Regraded Seeded Bonded 62.5
Enforcement Action: None

COMPLIANCE WITH PERMITS AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

	YES	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
1. PERMITS	(X)	()	()	(X)
2. SIGNS AND MARKERS	(X)	()	()	(X)
3. TOPSOIL	(X)	()	()	(X)
4. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE:				
a. STREAM CHANNEL DIVERSIONS	(X)	()	()	(X)
b. DIVERSIONS	(X)	()	()	()
c. SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS	(X)	()	()	(X)
d. OTHER SEDIMENT CONTROL MEASURES	(X)	()	()	(X)
e. SURFACE AND GROUNDWATER MONITORING	(X)	()	()	(X)
f. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS	(X)	()	()	(X)
5. EXPLOSIVES	(X)	()	()	(X)
6. DISPOSAL OF DEVELOPMENT WASTE & SPOIL	(X)	()	()	(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)	()	()	(X)
12. BACKFILLING AND GRADING	(X)	()	()	()
13. REVEGETATION	(X)	()	()	()
14. SUBSIDENCE CONTROL	(X)	()	()	()
15. CESSATION OF OPERATIONS	()	()	(X)	()
16. ROADS				
a. CONSTRUCTION	(X)	()	()	(X)
b. DRAINAGE CONTROLS	(X)	()	()	()
c. SURFACING	(X)	()	()	()
d. MAINTENANCE	(X)	()	()	()
17. OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES	(X)	()	()	()
18. SUPPORT FACILITIES				
UTILITY INSTALLATIONS	(X)	()	()	(X)

INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

Page 2 of 4

PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/005

DATE OF INSPECTION: 09/25/91

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

1. PERMITS:

The last Skyine Mine permit renewal was issued on December 1, 1989 and will expire on April 30, 1992. The mine is now in the process of preparing an application for another permit renewal. There has been a number of amendments to the permit since the 1989 renewal, the most recent of which deals with the mine sediment ponds and spillway requirements. An overland conveyor system is also being considered by the operator and plans should be submitted to the Division soon.

The bond documents for the mine were reviewed which showed that the Federal required rider dealing with termination of the cooperative agreement was submitted on August 21, 1991. The Insurance certificate was also reviewed which showed adequate coverage through December 31, 1991.

2. SIGNS AND MARKERS:

No problems were noted with the mine I.D. signs, topsoil markers or perimeter markers. The operator appears to do a good job in maintaining signs. A discussion was held regarding the location of the waste rock disposal site identification sign. It was determined that the current location (next to the waste site itself is probably the best location).

3. TOPSOIL:

The topsoil piles at the loadout and the mine site appear to be well protected and well vegetated.

4. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE:

a. STREAM CHANNEL DIVERSIONS

The middle fork of Eccles creek was inspected just above the upper coal storage pad. The stilling basin in this area appears to be in good conditions with no real problems noted. The willows planted in this area appear to be taking hold.

The right hand fork above the topsoil storage area is also flowing a small amount of water. Sheep have been grazing in the area and have pushed some sediment into the inlet structure. Although not affecting the drainage significantly, the operator committed to clean the sediment out as part of routine maintenance.

INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

Page 3 of 4

PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/005

DATE OF INSPECTION: 09/25/91

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

4. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE (Cont'd):

c. SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS

The loadout site sediment pond was recently cleaned. No problems were noted. The operator proposes to construct an open channel emergency spillway in order to comply with R614-301-742.223 as soon as Division approval can be obtained.

The mine site sediment pond was discussed with the operator. It is close to the sediment clean out level and the operator is making plans to clean it, but he is concerned that winter may hit before the job is finished. It was determined that he should proceed with the cleanout and weather would be taken into consideration if and when it occurs.

Quarterly self inspections were done on all three ponds on June 28, 1991. No concerns were voiced. Annual certification for all ponds was done on March 15, 1991.

d. OTHER SEDIMENT CONTROL MEASURES

At this time sediment control appears to be adequate on the whole site. It is suggested that a few straw bails be replaced at the well houses along the highway and at the inlet to eccles creek.

e. SURFACE AND GROUNDWATER MONITORING:

Water monitoring records were reviewed and were found to be very complete and accurate. There was a question regarding sampling at the waste rock disposal site, however, it was cleared up when it was determined that there had been no flow at the site. The operator will revise his records to show no flow.

f. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS:

The operator is concerned with the problems they have had in meeting effluent limitations set by their NPDES permit. They have had a number of exceedences for TDS and Sulfates and have identified the problem as gypsum in their rock dust. They have changed rock dust which seems to have helped the situation but it may take a while for the situation to completely reverse. The State Department of Health has been notified of the problem and has conducted compliance inspections, the last one done on July 16, 1991. All parties have been notified of the exceedences as required. Other solutions to the problem are being explored by the operator.

Biomonitoring was done form 9/11/91 to 9/15/91 as required.

5. EXPLOSIVES:

Blasting records were reviewed, which showed a number of small blasts having been done recently. The blasts were all less than 5 pounds of explosives and done mainly for maintenance. The blast reports were done by a certified surface blaster and were complete and accurate.

6. DISPOSAL OF DEVELOPMENT WASTE AND SPOIL:

The mine waste rock site was inspected. The last lift has not been graded out yet. No fires or stability problems were noted. Certification of the pile was done on July 18, 1991.

INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

Page 4 of 4

PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/005

DATE OF INSPECTION: 09/25/91

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

11. CONTEMPORANEOUS RECLAMATION

A number of areas around the mine site have been hydroseeded and mulched. The outslope near the highway and the entire slope above the lower pad area has been seeded as required by recent recent plan amendments. A small area of rill erosion was pointed out on the highway outslope which was caused by recent rains running off the highway. The operator committed to reapply topsoil to this area.

16a. ROAD CONSTRUCTION:

A discussion was held on the requirements for road certification. At this time the operator has certified all haul roads but is unsure what needs to be done on other road and pad areas. The operator plans to submit certification for all remaining roads that can be distinguished as roads.

17. OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES:

The operator is proposing to install a new conveyor system from the mine site to the rail loadout. At this time, engineering designs are being completed and the proposal should be submitted shortly.

Copy of this Report:

Mailed to: PFO, Bernie Freeman-AFO, Keith Zobel, Coastal States

Given to: J. Helfrich-DOGM

Inspectors Signature & Number: *Orlando Zaddock* # 28 Date: 10/1/91