



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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INSPECTION REPORT

0004

INSPECTION DATE & TIME: February 26, 1992
09:00 - 17:30

Permittee and/or Operators Name: UTAH FUEL COMPANY
Business Address: HELPER, UTAH 84527 1 (801) 637-7925
Mine Name: SKYLINE MINE Permit Number: ACT/007/005
Type of Mining Activity: Underground x Surface Other
County: CARBON
Company Official (s): Keith Zobell, Carl Winter
State Official(s): Priscilla Burton (DOGM), Harry Campbell (DEQ)
Partial: Complete: x
 Date of Last Inspection: January 15, 1992
Weather Conditions: SUNSHINE, 40°F
Acreage: Permitted 4834 Disturbed 62.5 Bonded 62.5
Enforcement Action: N.O.V. 92-37-1-1

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)	()	(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 & 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)	()	()	(x)
11. CONTEMPORANEOUS RECLAMATION	()	(x)	()	(x)
12. BACKFILLING AND GRADING	(x)	()	()	()
13. REVEGETATION	()	(x)	()	(x)
14. SUBSIDENCE CONTROL	(x)	()	()	()
15. CESSATION OF OPERATIONS	()	()	(x)	()
16. ROADS				
a. CONSTRUCTION	(x)	()	()	()
b. DRAINAGE CONTROLS	(x)	()	()	()
c. SURFACING	(x)	()	()	()
d. MAINTENANCE	(x)	()	()	()
17. OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES	(x)	()	()	()
18. SUPPORT FACILITIES				
UTILITY INSTALLATIONS	(x)	()	()	()

4. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE

b. Diversions

All along the conveyor bench, the soil is supersaturated due to the collection of precipitation on the flat surface. The slopes are unstable as mud is oozing down the in-slopes of the roadcut along State Road 264. The collection of water from the conveyor bench and its free-fall over the slope has eroded a wide gully in the slope. This erosion was photographed. Erosion is occurring from water discharged through straw bales at the proposed transfer point of the conveyor pad. The water discharged through the straw bales appeared to be clear. It was sampled and photographed. The water was also sampled along the road above its confluence with the road ditch. This water was sediment laden. Water is flowing rapidly through the straw bales and down the road in-slope to a collection ditch.

Although Utah Fuel Co. is in compliance with the MRP for ASCA #10 (page 3-64G of Section 3.2.12 of the MRP), the plan fails to address R645-301-742.113, R645-301-734, and R645-301-744. The Division prefers to manage this problem via Division Order rather than through a Notice of Violation. A Division Order is being drafted.

c. Effluent Limitations

Every sample taken from UPDES point 001 in the past 12 months was out of compliance for TDS. Some samples were also out of compliance with sulfates. The Division of Environmental Quality sent Harry Campbell to the site during this complete inspection to enable a three-way discussion between the mine operator, DEQ and DOGM concerning the exceedence of permit limitations. Mr. Zobel presented a summary of the source of the high TDS. The TDS is resulting from gypsum rock dust applied to mining entries which were later inundated by mine water in-flow. The flow is constantly pumped from the abandoned section to prevent failure of the rock wall which is updip from active mine sections. Utah Fuel is attempting to keep the level of water in the abandoned section constant to reduce the dissolution of sulfates. It is expected that if the water level remains constant, the dissolution of sulfates into the water will diminish over time. The time frame for this dilution effect to be seen is uncertain. Utah Fuel has not applied for an increase in the TDS limitations, stating that this exceedence is temporary in nature. A water sample was taken from UPDES point 001. A notice of violation may follow receipt of the laboratory analyses if there is an exceedence of UPDES permit limitations for TDS.

10. Slides and other damage

Ditch #DD2, Map 3.2.1-1 is being filled in with mud flowing from the steep, denuded slope above the road cut. This is the location

of previous slide activity and is an unstable slope. Utah Fuel Co. prefers not to destabilize the slope by clearing the ditch of the accumulated mud which forms the toe of the slope. All sediment is reporting to the sediment pond. Mr. Zobel indicated that when the slope is drier, the ditch will be improved to the design specifications. The inability to maintain ditch #DD2 to design specifications indicates that the ditch design is inadequate and that measures to increase the stability of the slope should be evaluated. These issues are also addressed in the Division Order mentioned in item 4b above.

**11. Contemporaneous Reclamation and
12 Revegetation**

Reclamation of the conveyor bench slopes is addressed in pages 4-35 and 4-36 of the MRP and Vol A-2. The MRP indicates that quantitative sampling was done annually. Mr. Zobel indicated that this was for the years 1980 to 85 when Utah Fuel was seeking bond release for the slopes. When it became apparent that revegetation standards would not be achieved, the quantitative monitoring stopped and the plan described in Vol A-2 was placed into action. The plan as described in Vol A-2 indicates that

The company wants to initiate a long-term program of revegetation, rather than the past one-shot approaches.

The plan calls for evaluations of experimental practices, treatments and trials annually, and for the conclusions drawn from these evaluations to be applied to the next year's reclamation efforts. Annual reports submitted in 1989 and 1990 indicate that no vegetative monitoring was done at the Skyline mine. A conversation with Mr. Zobel indicated that annual evaluations were conducted by both himself and the SCS. No field notes were available. The methods employed by Utah Fuel on these slopes, both successful and unsuccessful will have a large bearing upon the reclamation plan for the site. A written record of trials, methodologies, successes and failures was implicit in the design of the contemporaneous revegetation of the conveyor slopes which pose difficult problems for establishment. Notice of Violation 92-37-1-1 is being issued for incompliance with R645-301-351, R645-301-330, R645-301-331, R645-300-143 and 30 CFR 817.100.

Copy of this Report:

Mailed to: Brian Smith - OSM, Keith Zobel - Utah Fuel
Given to: Daron Haddock - DOGM, Joe Helfrich - DOGM

Inspectors Signature & Number *Smilla Burton* #37 Date: 3/2/92