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Canyon Fuel Co., LLC

Earth Day Award Presentation - Eccles Canyon

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Utah Fuel Company in 1992, now Canyon Fuel Company, LLC, built an overland conveyor system to transport coal from the mines to the rail loadout at the mouth of Eccles Canyon. The conveyor system is 2.5 miles in length and is unique in that after the coal is loaded onto the belt the belt rolls into a tube to enclose the coal.

- Traditional conveyor bench was cut as part of the road construction in the upper portions of Eccles Canyon.
- The lower portion of Eccles Canyon was left undisturbed.

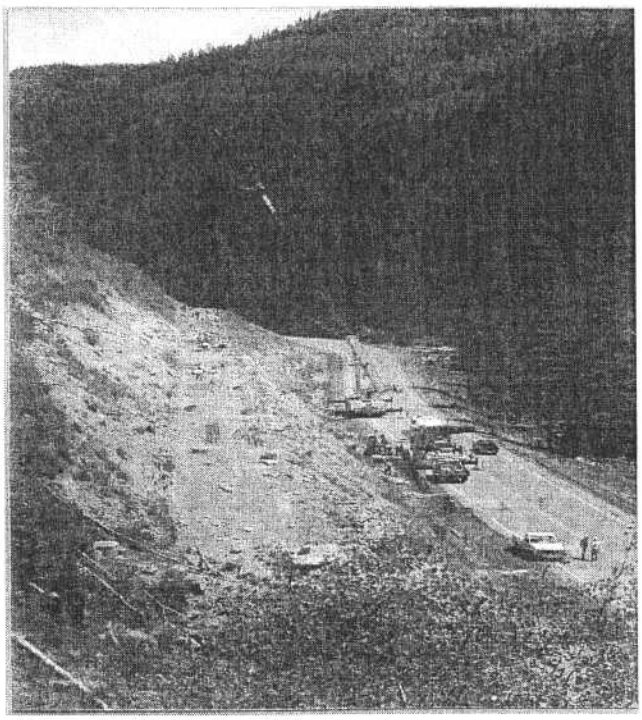

Fig. 1 - Existing Conveyor Bench - Upper Portion of Eccles Canyon

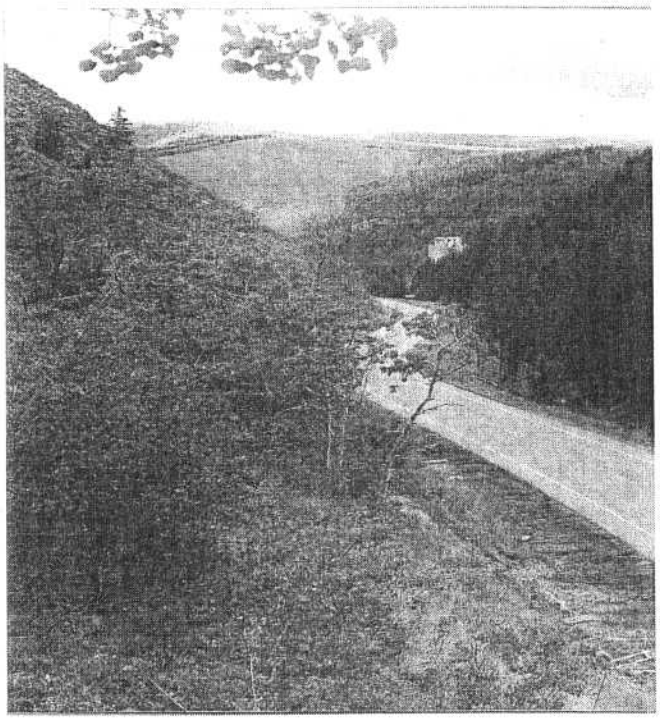

Fig. 2 - Undisturbed Lower Portion of Eccles Canyon

- Construction equipment used the conveyor bench as the travelway to reduce the amount of disturbance while digging footing for the tower supports in the upper portion of Eccles Canyon.
- A crane with an auger was used to dig footing for the tower supports in the lower portion of Eccles Canyon.
- Portable stairways were used so personnel would not have to walk up and down the slopes and disturb the vegetation in the lower portion of Eccles Canyon.

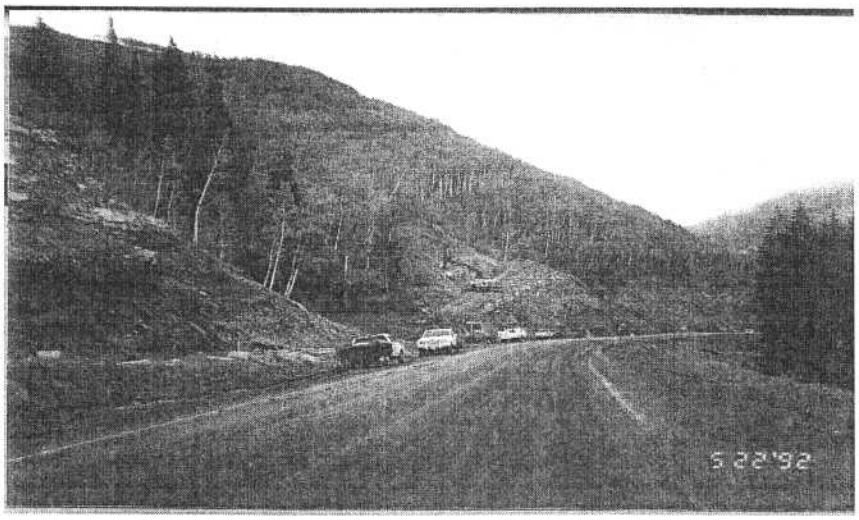

Fig. 3 - Construction Equipment Work on Conveyor Bench, Drilling Footing Support Towers

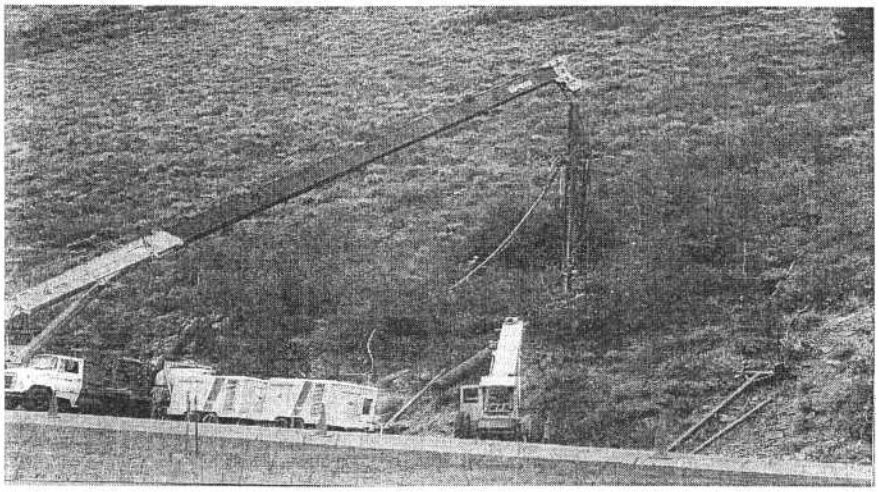

Fig. 4 - Crane and Auger Used to Drill Footing for Support Towers in Undisturbed Areas

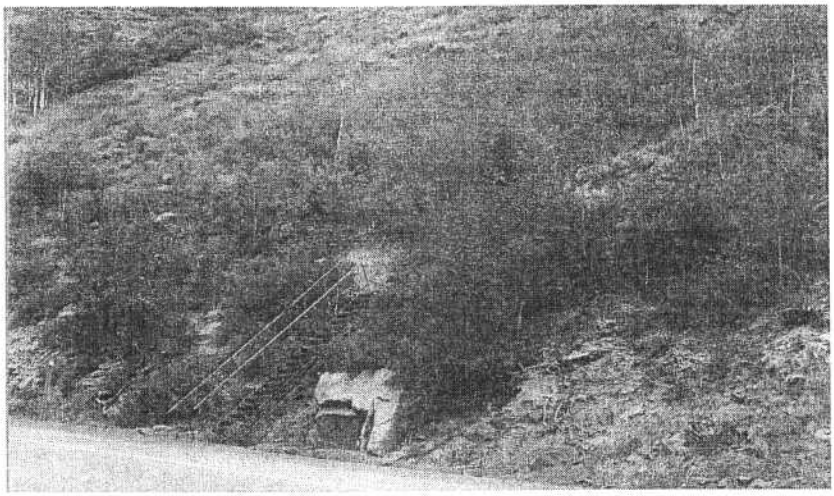

Fig. 5 - Walkway Used by Construction Workers to Decease Disturbance to the Work Site

- Conveyor system was constructed from the highway.
- Conveyor system is elevated farther off the ground than traditional conveyor systems and allows for freer wildlife movement.
- The conveyor belt forms a tube thus reducing the chance of coal spillage and fugitive coal dust from entering the environmental.
- The conveyor system eliminated five transfer points in the canyon. Eliminating the transfer points reduced the amount of noise in the canyon.
- Reclamation is simplified because instead of reclaiming conveyor benches with large cut slopes only small disturbances of a few square feet exist.

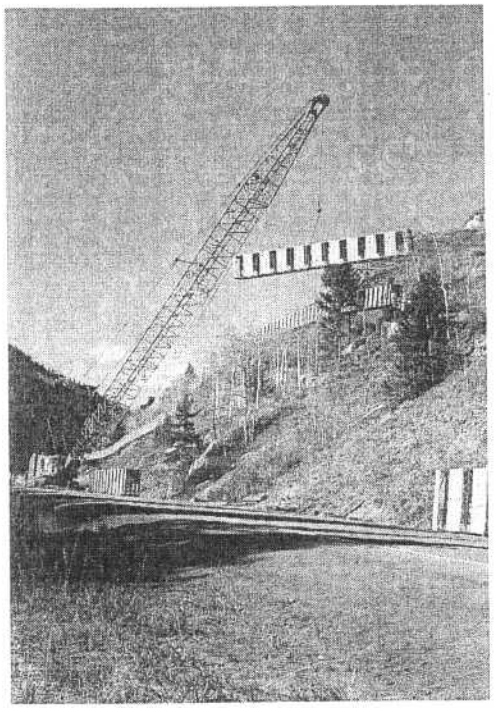

Fig. 6 - Erection of Conveyor Structure for Highway

Fig. 7 - Elevated Conveyor Structure for Freer Wildlife Movement

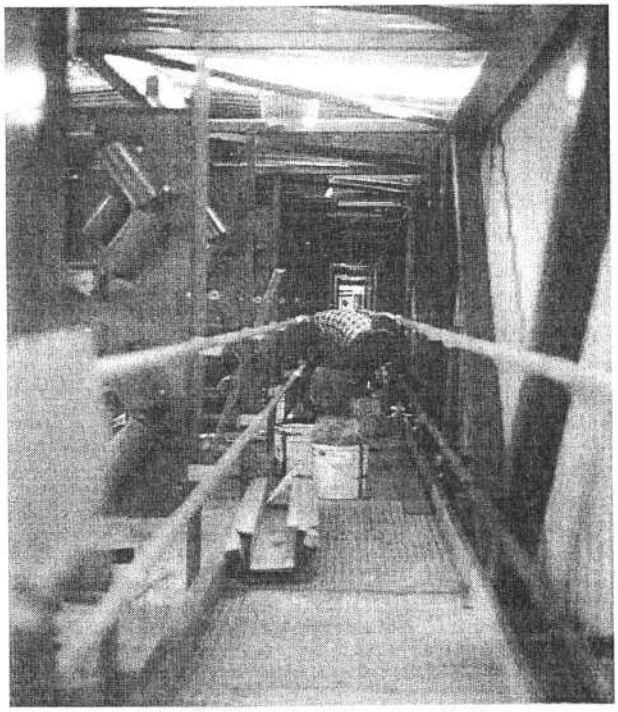

Fig. 8 - Conveyor Idlers Used to Create the Tube Conveyor

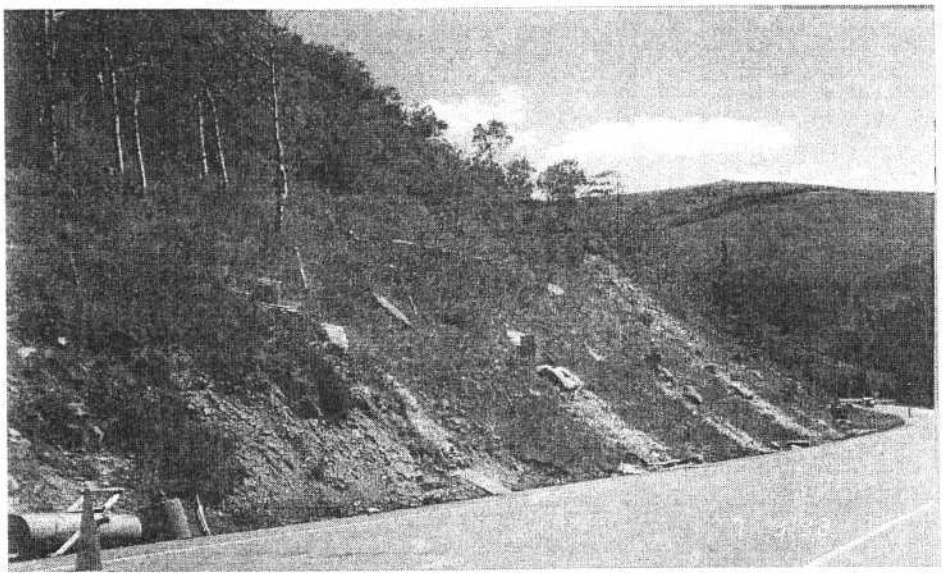

Fig. 9 - Lower Portion of Eccles Canyon After Footing were Drilled

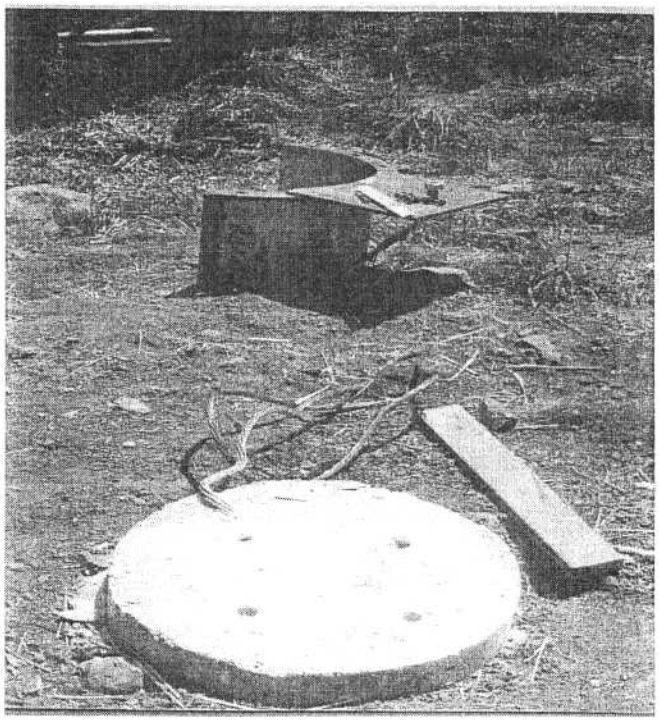

Fig. 10 - Typical Footing for Support Tower Small Area to Reclaim