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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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N@Z

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INSPECTION REPORT

INSPECTION DATE & TIME: March 24, 1992
9:50 A.M. to 1:15 P.M.

Permittee and/or Operator's Name: U. S. Fuel
Business Address: P. O. Box A, Hiawatha, Utah 84527
Mine Name: Hiawatha Permit Number: ACT/007/011 County: Carbon
Type of Mining Activity: Underground Surface Other
Company Official(s): Bob Eccli State Official(s): Paul Baker Federal Official(s): None
Partial: Complete: Date of last Inspection: February 10-11, 1992
Weather Conditions: Partly Cloudy, 40's, snow on ground in shaded areas and in canyons
Acreage: Permitted- 20700 Disturbed- 290 Regraded- 0 Seeded- 0 Bonded- 290
Enforcement Action: N92-41-1-1

COMPLIANCE WITH PERMITS AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

| | YES | NO | N/A | COMMENTS |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. PERMITS | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. SIGNS AND MARKERS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. TOPSOIL | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: | | | | |
| a. STREAM CHANNEL DIVERSIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. DIVERSIONS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c. SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d. OTHER SEDIMENT CONTROL MEASURES | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e. SURFACE AND GROUNDWATER MONITORING | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. EXPLOSIVES | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. DISPOSAL OF DEVELOPMENT WASTE & SPOIL | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. COAL PROCESSING WASTE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. NONCOAL WASTE | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. SLIDES AND OTHER DAMAGE | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11. CONTEMPORANEOUS RECLAMATION | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12. BACKFILLING AND GRADING | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13. REVEGETATION | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 14. SUBSIDENCE CONTROL | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 15. CESSATION OF OPERATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 16. ROADS | | | | |
| a. CONSTRUCTION | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. DRAINAGE CONTROLS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. SURFACING | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. MAINTENANCE | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 17. OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 18. SUPPORT FACILITIES AND UTILITY INSTALLATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 19. AVS INFORMATION | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

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PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/011

DATE OF INSPECTION: March 24, 1992

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

The inspection concentrated on areas near the Town of Hiawatha, particularly the refuse piles, slurry ponds, and associated sediment ponds. We drove through the surface facilities areas in Middle and South Forks without finding any serious problems.

4. Hydrologic Balance

b. Diversions

I walked the diversions around refuse pile 2 and around the outside of slurry pond 5. We also walked around the outside of slurry pond 1. The ditches were all intact, and some showed signs that they had recently been reworked.

c. Sediment Ponds and Impoundments

Sediment ponds 4, 5, 6, and 7 were checked and no serious problems found. The configuration of the inlet from the north to sediment pond 7 needed to be worked on so that water could flow directly into the pond rather than around some of the material that had been graded from the ditch.

d. Other Sediment Control Measures

On the north side of refuse pile 2 just north of the diversion ditch, there is an area that does not report to the ditch and the sediment pond where the water leaving the disturbed area is not treated in any way. Mr. Eccli contended that this area was a pre-1977 disturbance; however, the placement of disturbed area markers strongly indicates that it is an area of U. S. Fuel's responsibility. This area is the top of the embankment of the old slurry pond 2 which OSM determined in 1985 was abandoned prior to 1977. The main area of the old slurry pond has been affected since 1987 by refuse pile 2 and the ditch carrying disturbed area runoff from the refuse pile, however. Maps and cross sections contained in the plan tend to indicate that the area in question is U. S. Fuel's responsibility, but they are not of sufficient scale to make a positive determination. The only evidence available to me of the actual extent of post-1977 disturbance was the perimeter area marker.

The water which accumulates in the area north of the ditch flows to the north over the edge of the embankment onto an undisturbed area and down the hill to an ephemeral/intermittent tributary of Miller Creek which is not too far away. This slope contained several gullies which were approximately two or three feet deep near the edge of the embankment and shallower toward the bottom. They varied in width from about two to about ten feet. Observations of the topography of this area made it clear that the untreated water which should have been going into the disturbed diversion ditch was the cause of this erosion. N92-41-1-1 was issued for failure to limit sediment and suspended solid contributions to runoff and streamflow in areas outside the permit and adjacent areas using the best technology currently available and for not following the approved plan for sediment control.

13. Revegetation

We looked at the revegetation test plots on the refuse material near slurry pond 1. The eastern three-fourths of the plots look very good with excellent cover from perennial grasses and shrubs, particularly winterfat, fringed sage, sagebrush, and fourwing saltbush.

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(Continuation sheet)

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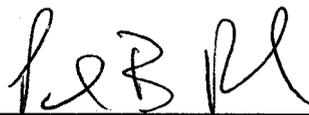
DATE OF INSPECTION: March 24, 1992

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Copy of this Report:

Mailed to: Bob Eccli (U.S. Fuel), Bernie Freeman (OSM)

Given to: Daron Haddock, Joe Helfrich (DOGM)

Inspector's Signature: 

Paul B. Baker #41 Date: March 30, 1992