



## INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

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PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/011

DATE OF INSPECTION: 7/8/97

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

### North Fork

The reclaimed North Fork fan portal and access road was inspected. The North Fork stream channel diversion and pipeline was also inspected. The following observations were made:

- The reclaimed fan portal area had a good vegetative cover. Firs were invading the disturbed area along with other shrubs. The revegetation portion of the permit states that trees and shrubs are to be transplanted in this area, to date no shrubs have been transplanted. The Operator should consider measuring the existing tree and shrub density prior to planting the shrubs. If the site is currently meeting the bond release success standard for tree and shrub density, then additional shrubs may not need to be planted.
- The reclaimed fan portal area was not reclaimed to the drainage and contour as shown in Exhibit V-10 of the permit. No description or map could be found in the permit which shows where the sediment controls should be located. Exhibit V-10 did not show the correct disturbed area.
- The access road to the North Fork facilities is not shown on the maps as within the disturbed area. The road in the permit is designated as an ancillary road and the statement is made that it will be maintained. Regulations require the road to be maintained according to use. Deep erosion gullies, a crushed culvert and filled drainage ditches were observed on the road. The road is used infrequently for inspections and water monitoring. An assessment of the condition of the road should be made by the Operator. Grading activities may cause accelerated sedimentation versus no grading. Some minor work such as appropriate water bar placement could possibly be sufficient maintenance.
- A diversion box and pipeline are nonfunctional in Miller Creek. Pipe is stored in several locations along the road and box. The map or on the ground markers did not show the box, pipeline, or storage areas as within the disturbed area.

The above noted problems should be covered and addressed in Division Order 97A. The Operators response to Division Order 97A has been extended to August 1.

### **4. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE:**

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e. **Effluent Limitations** Mr. Davidson sampled the mine water discharge at UPDES point D002. This is water piped to Hiawatha from the Mohrland Mine and discharged along the road near the substation, close to town. The water then enters a culvert which brings the water under the railroad area and discharges into a tributary to Miller Creek by Slurry Pond 4. The channel is coated with an iron oxide for several hundred yards in the tributary. The Division was concerned that the mine had an acid discharge. Mr. Davidson measured a pH of 7.2 and Conductivity of 1026 at the D002 point, at the discharge to the tributary to Miller Creek the pH was 8.15 and conductivity was 1023. Obviously, no acid mine drainage is occurring.

### 13. REVEGETATION

The Operator continues to spray for whitetop and musk thistle. Morning glory or Field bindweed, also a noxious weed, was observed on site. The Operator was told that this weed also required treatment.

### 14. SUBSIDENCE CONTROL

Subsidence had been recorded (over 4 feet) in 1990 in the area of Federal Lease U-058261. The surface is Forest Service and is above the head waters to the Right Fork of Miller Creek. The surface area has not been inspected by the Mine or the Forest for the surface effects of the subsidence. During this inspection the surface lands were walked, although a complete inspection was hindered by heavy rainfall. Some slumps and seeps were observed in the area. This inspector would assume that these were the result of subsidence activity, but prior surface condition is unknown. The Division will contact the Forest Service for a joint surface inspection.

Copy of this Report:

Mailed to: OSM, United States Fuel Company

Given to: Joe Helfrich (DOGM)

Inspector's Signature:

Susan M. White #35 Date: 7/14/97