

August 15, 1985

TO: Coal File, Inspection and Enforcement Folder
FROM: David Lof, Mining Field Specialist 
RE: Soldier Creek Coal Company, Soldier Canyon Mine,
ACT/007/018, Folder #7, Carbon County, Utah

DATE: July 26, 1985
TIME: 11:00 a. m. - 3:00 p.m.
WEATHER: Hot and mostly clear
COMPANY OFFICIAL: Tom Paluso
STATE OFFICIAL: David Lof
ENFORCEMENT ACTION: None

Compliance With Permanent Performance Standards

UMC 771 et al Permits

The following permits were reviewed in the operator's mine office:

1. The operator's permit approval from OSM dated May 31, 1985. There were no special conditions attached to the permit.
2. The Division's final permit approval letter dated June 3, 1985. There was one stipulation attached to the Division's approval letter that required that the operator post additional surety with the Division to ensure reclamation if OSM's bond estimate was not consistent with Division policy and was insufficient.

UMC 817.11 Signs and Markers

Mine identification signs were posted along the county road near the mine site and at the sewage lagoon site as required.

Perimeter markers were properly posted around the permitted disturbed area boundary.

UMC 817.21-.23 Topsoil

The operator does have some topsoil stored for redistribution upon final reclamation. This material is located on the southern slope of the material storage pad south of the sediment pond. It is well vegetated and a sign is posted on the stockpile identifying it as topsoil.

UMC 817.41-.51 Hydrologic Balance

In general, the runoff controls for the mine site appeared to be adequately maintained.

Sediment Pond Inlet

The operator had completed the construction of the new sediment pond inlet which was approved by the Division on August 7, 1984 as part of a runoff control modification plan. The inlet appeared to be in accordance with design specifications and the operator's contractor had done a very good job.

Binwall

The operator had completed the construction of drainage controls for the binwall which were approved by the Division on August 7, 1984. These drainage controls also appeared to be in compliance with design specifications and the contractor had done a very good job of implementing the plans.

Sediment Pond, NOV N85-4-15-1

This violation was issued on May 2, 1985 for the operator's failure to mine in accordance with their approved interim permit, and for failure to construct and maintain the sediment pond embankment to insure proper embankment top width and sideslope gradient. The operator was required to submit complete plans to the Division to bring the sediment pond into compliance with UMC 817.46 (l) and (m) by May 20, 1985 and to complete the implementation of the plans within 30 days of Division approval.

On May 20, 1985, the Division received information from the operator regarding the sediment pond embankment. This information was reviewed and a deficiency letter sent on May 30, 1985. The letter required that the additional information requested be submitted to the Division on or before July 1, 1985.

The operator submitted the additional information requested on July 1, 1985. The Division Technical staff is presently reviewing the submittal.

Pond Inspections

The operator had both their sediment pond and sewage lagoon dams and embankments certified by a qualified registered professional engineer as required by UMC 817.49 (h). The certifications were dated June 27, 1985 and both were stamped and signed by Tom Paluso who is a Registered Professional Engineer. The report on the sewage lagoon indicated that there were no problems, however, some minor settling had occurred between the two cells.

The sediment pond certification states that the initial storage volume of the sediment pond was 3.4 acre feet and that the existing storage volume is 3.0 acre feet. The certification also makes note of erosion on the stream side of the embankment and the plans which were submitted to the Division for the correction of this problem (N85-4-15-1).

UMC 817.52 Surface and Ground Water Monitoring

The operator is currently operating under NPDES permit UT-0023680 issued by EPA on October 29, 1982. This permit is for the mine water discharge and sediment pond overflow into Soldier Creek. The permit is scheduled to expire on September 30, 1987. The operator had surface water monitoring data available through June 4, 1985. there were no apparent problems with the data which were reviewed.

According to Mr. Paluso the operator has started to sample in accordance with their new sampling regime as approved in their permit. However, as of the time of the inspection, they had not received any of their sample results from the laboratory.

UMC 817.71-.73 Disposal of Underground Development Waste and Excess Spoil and Nonacid and Nontoxic Forming Coal Processing Waste.

According to Mr. Paluso the operator is currently disposing of all their underground development waste underground in the cross cuts within the stream crossing buffer area. According to the Technical Analysis for the mine plan, dated December 1984, the operator has proposed to permit a waste rock disposal site to accomodate the disposal of waste rock material. It is my understanding at this time that the operator has submitted all of the information for the permitting of the site, however, it is not covered by a reclamation bond, therefore it is not permitted.

UMC 817.95 Air Resources Protection

The operator has a small fugitive dust problem in their main storage area, north of their shop. This was discussed with the operator during a previous inspection. At the time of this inspection Mr. Paluso informed me that they had used calcium chloride on the area once, but it had only lasted about one week. He explained that they were considering regrading the yard area and using magnesium chloride on the surface instead of calcium chloride because it lasts longer.

UMC 817.121-.126 Subsidence Control

According to the operator's permit, they have committed to continue monitoring their subsidence surface monuments, which they established in 1980, on an annual basis. The monitoring will be performed using aerial photography for points over the mine workings and ground surveys for points along Soldier Creek.

UMC 817.181 Support Facilities and Utility Installations

I reviewed the approved plans for the operators sewage lagoons in their mine office and then went to the lagoon site to check the compliance of the as-built lagoons with the approved plans. The

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as-built lagoons matched the approved designs quite well with a few minor exceptions. The only work needed to be done at the lagoon site is the maintenance of the ditch along the west side of the access road to the sewage lagoons. Mr. Paluso committed to having this completed prior to my next inspection.

re

cc: Donna Griffin, OSM
Tom Paluso, Soldier Creek Coal Co.
Joe Helfrich, DOGM

Statistics:

Vehicle: EX49611 - 370 miles
Per Diem: 1 person X 1 day 7 hours = \$56.07
Grant: A&E
0326Q-15-18