

March 12, 1985

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

DATE: February 21, 1985
TIME: 1:40 - 4:30 p.m.
WEATHER: Sunny and mild
COMPANY OFFICIALS: Rick Olsen, Dave Spillman
STATE OFFICIALS: David Lof
ENFORCEMENT ACTION: None

Compliance With Permanent Performance Standards

UMC 771 et al Permits

The following permits and approvals were reviewed in the operators mine office:

1. The operators interim approval letter from the Division dated January 17, 1979.
2. A July 14, 1983 letter from the Division approving the construction of the sewage lagoons.
3. An August 7, 1984 letter from the Division approving a runoff control plan modification submitted by the operator on July 6, 1984.
4. An October 16, 1984 letter from the Division approving the operators vegetation field trial/test plots plan.
5. The following BLM Right-of-Ways (ROW):
 - A. U-53806 issued November 6, 1984 for the waste rock disposal site.
 - B. U-50167 issued June 2, 1982 for the sewage lagoons.
 - C. U-33855 issued October 17, 1976 for the mine haul road.
 - D. U-52071 issued February 9, 1983 for the sediment pond area.

UMC 817.11 Signs and Markers:

Mine identifications signs were posted along the county road above and below the mine site as required. The sewage lagoons site which is down the canyon from the main mine site is fenced to prevent access.

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Signs posted along the fence warn people of the nature of the material in the lagoons and identify the site as part of Soldier Creek's operations. However, there was not a mine identification sign per say. Therefore, I asked the operator to post a mine identification sign on the west side of the pond near the gate.

UMC 817.41 -.51 Hydrologic Balance

All disturbed area runoff controls for the mine yard and parking area appeared to be adequately maintained. There was no evidence of any disturbed area runoff from these areas bypassing the sediment pond.

Sediment Pond Inlet

There was some disturbed area runoff bypassing the sediment pond inlet and going down the slope into the sediment pond causing some erosion on the down slope. While discussing this with Mr. Spillman, he showed me the runoff control modification approved August 7, 1984, which will address this problem when it is implemented this spring.

Binwall

As noted in Ken Wyatt's memo for his November 1984 complete inspection, the operator needs to maintain drainage controls to prevent further settling and erosion of the binwall fill material. The operator's runoff control plan modification approved August 7, 1984 addresses this area also.

Exhaust Shaft and Fan Area

This area was covered with at least one foot of snow. There has been no activity except for the use of the substation. Mr. Olsen indicated to me that the area is covered by a gravel base which is suppose to control the sediment from the area.

Pond Inspections

The operator had quarterly sediment pond and sewage lagoon inspection reports through December 18, 1984.

Pond Certification

The operator had annual pond certification reports for both the sediment pond and sewage lagoon embankments. The reports were dated January 12, 1984 and certified by Tom Paluso, who is a Registered Professional Engineer, employed by Soldier Creek Coal Company. His state of Utah certification number is #4028. Mr. Spillman indicated that they are going to wait until spring this year before they certify the embankments, so that a more accurate assessment can be made.

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UMC 817.52 Surface and Ground Water Monitoring

The EPA issued the operator NPDES permit UT-0023680 on October 29, 1982. This permit covers discharges of mine water and sediment pond overflow into Soldier Creek. The permit will expire on September 30, 1987.

Surface water and NPDES data was available through January 1985. There were no apparent problems with the analysis except that the operator had failed to analyze for Total Manganese. I told Mr. Spillman that UMC 817.42 (a)(7) requires the operator to meet certain total Manganese effluent limitations. Therefore, they must analyze total Manganese for each sample taken of mine water discharge and sediment pond discharge.

UMC 817.61 Use of Explosives

Examination of the explosive magazines, found the magazines locked and signs posted as required. I asked Mr. Spillman if there had been any recent blasting activity. He said that they had not done any blasting on the surface since the fan and rock slope were constructed approximately two years ago.

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

The operator has proposed a waste rock disposal site in their MRP. The site has not yet been approved nor has it been disturbed. It is located west of the sewage lagoon site. The site is on BLM land for which the operator holds ROW U-53806 issued November 6, 1984.

UMC 817.89 Disposal of Noncoal Waste

An inspection of the noncoal waste bins found no unauthorized materials being disposed of.

re

cc: Donna Griffin, OSM
Dave Spillman, Soldier Creek Coal Company
Joe Helfrich, DOGM

Statistics:

Vehicle: EX 49611, 543 miles
Per Diem: 1 person X 2 days 9 hours = \$119.90
Grant: A&E
0166Q-1-3