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# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

*manif.*

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801-538-5340

December 6, 1989

CERTIFIED RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED  
P 074 978 631

Mr. Rick Olsen, President  
Soldier Creek Coal Company  
P. O. Box 1  
Price, Utah 84501

Dear Mr. Olsen:

Re: Proposed Assessment for State Violation No. N89-17-3-1, ACT/007/018, Folder #5, Carbon County, Utah

The undersigned has been appointed by the Board of Oil, Gas and Mining as the Assessment Officer for assessing penalties under UMC/SMC 845.11-845.17.

Enclosed is the proposed civil penalty assessment for the above referenced violation. This violation was issued by Division Inspector, Lynn Kunzler on October 13, 1989. Rule UMC/SMC 845.2 et seq. has been utilized to formulate the proposed penalty. By these rules, any written information which was submitted by you or your agent within fifteen (15) days of receipt of this Notice of Violation has been considered in determining the facts surrounding the violation and the amount of penalty.

Within fifteen (15) days after receipt of this proposed assessment, you or your agent may file a written request for an assessment conference to review the proposed penalty. The detailed brief should indicate the specific objections to the proposed assessment, stating the grounds for objection and what your assignment of points would be. (Submit a request for conference to Vicki Bailey, at the above address. Please reference Permit and NOV #).

**IF A TIMELY REQUEST IS NOT MADE, THE PROPOSED PENALTY(IES) WILL BECOME FINAL, AND THE PENALTY(IES) WILL BE DUE AND PAYABLE WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS OF THE PROPOSED ASSESSMENT.** Please remit payment to the Division, mail c/o Vicki Bailey.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph C. Helfrich".

Joseph C. Helfrich  
Assessment Officer

jb  
Enclosure  
MN36/30

WORKSHEET FOR ASSESSMENT OF PENALTIES  
UTAH DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

COMPANY/MINE Soldier Creek Coal/Soldier Canyon NOV #N-89-17-3-1

PERMIT #ACT/007/018 VIOLATION 1 OF 1

ASSESSMENT DATE 12/4/89 ASSESSMENT OFFICER Joseph C. Helfrich

I. HISTORY MAX 25 PTS

A. Are there previous violations which are not pending or vacated, which fall within 1 year of today's date?

ASSESSMENT DATE 12/4/89 EFFECTIVE ONE YEAR TO DATE 12/4/88

PREVIOUS VIOLATIONS	EFFECTIVE DATE	POINTS
<u>N89-28-1-1</u>	<u>6/13/89</u>	<u>1</u>

1 point for each past violation, up to one year  
5 points for each past violation in a CO, up to one year  
No pending notices shall be counted

TOTAL HISTORY POINTS 1

II. SERIOUSNESS (either A or B)

NOTE: For assignment of points in Parts II and III, the following applies. Based on the facts supplied by the inspector, the Assessment Officer will determine within which category the violation falls. Beginning at the mid-point of the category, the AO will adjust the points up or down, utilizing the inspector's and operator's statements as guiding documents.

Is this an Event (A) or Hindrance (B) violation? Event

A. Event Violations MAX 45 PTS

1. What is the event which the violated standard was designed to prevent? Water Pollution
2. What is the probability of the occurrence of the event which a violated standard was designed to prevent?

PROBABILITY	RANGE
None	0
Unlikely	1-9
Likely	10-19
Occurred	20

ASSIGN PROBABILITY OF OCCURRENCE POINTS 20

PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION OF POINTS

The inspector statement revealed that the sediment traps in Soldier Creek were installed to reduce sediment loading of the stream. With heavy sediment loads, periodic maintenance was needed to insure the effectiveness of sediment control. The inspector statement further revealed that the sediment traps were full of sediment so that untreated sediment-laden water was flowing either around or over the sediment traps. Sediment was observed in the stream channel for several hundred feet below the last sediment trap.

3. What is the extent of actual or potential damage?

RANGE 0-25\*

\*In assigning points, consider the duration and extent of said damage or impact, in terms of area and impact on the public or environment.

ASSIGN DAMAGE POINTS 20

PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION OF POINTS

The inspector statement revealed that excessive sedimentation was evident as a result of construction activities. The stream had noticeably improved as construction work stopped. However, sediments from the activity were noticeable in the stream approximately 1 mile below the site.

B. Hindrance Violations MAX 25 PTS

1. Is this a potential or actual hindrance to enforcement? \_\_\_\_\_

RANGE 0 - 25

Assign points based on the extent to which enforcement is actually or potentially hindered by the violation.

ASSIGN HINDRANCE POINTS \_\_\_\_\_

PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION OF POINTS

TOTAL SERIOUSNESS POINTS (A OR B) 40

III. NEGLIGENCE MAX 30 PTS

- A. Was this an inadvertent violation which was unavoidable by the exercise of reasonable care? IF SO - NO NEGLIGENCE;
- OR Was this a failure of a permittee to prevent the occurrence of a violation due to indifference, lack of diligence, or lack of reasonable care, or the failure to abate any violation due to the same? IF SO - NEGLIGENCE;
- OR Was this violation the result of reckless, knowing, or intentional conduct? IF SO - GREATER DEGREE OF FAULT THAN NEGLIGENCE.

No Negligence	0
Negligence	1-15
Greater Degree of Fault	16-30

STATE DEGREE OF NEGLIGENCE Ordinary negligence

ASSIGN NEGLIGENCE POINTS 8

PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION OF POINTS

Inspector statement revealed that the operator should have been inspecting the sediment traps and cleaning out the sediment more frequently during the construction activities. Inspection at the beginning of the construction day only, is not considered adequate.

IV. GOOD FAITH MAX -20 PTS. (either A or B) (Does not apply to violations requiring no abatement measures)

A. Did the operator have onsite the resources necessary to achieve compliance of the violated standard within the permit area?

**IF SO - EASY ABATEMENT**

Easy Abatement Situation

**Immediate Compliance -11 to -20\***

(Immediately following the issuance of the NOV)

**Rapid Compliance -1 to -10\***

(Permittee used diligence to abate the violation)

**Normal Compliance 0**

(Operator complied within the abatement period required)

(Operator complied with conditions and/or terms of approved Mining and Reclamation Plan)

\*Assign in upper or lower half of range depending on abatement occurring in 1st or 2nd half of abatement period.

B. Did the permittee not have the resources at hand to achieve compliance OR does the situation require the submission of plans prior to physical activity to achieve compliance?

**IF SO - DIFFICULT ABATEMENT**

Difficult Abatement Situation

**Rapid Compliance -11 to -20\***

(Permittee used diligence to abate the violation)

**Normal Compliance -1 to -10\***

(Operator complied within the abatement period required)

**Extended Compliance 0**

(Permittee took minimal actions for abatement to stay within the limits of the NOV or the violated standard, or the plan submitted for abatement was incomplete)

(Permittee complied with conditions and/or terms of approved Mining and Reclamation Plan)

EASY OR DIFFICULT ABATEMENT? Easy ASSIGN GOOD FAITH POINTS 11

PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION OF POINTS

The operator immediately began abatement of the violation by installing additional straw bales on top of the existing sediment trap. Additional sediment traps were installed the next day. The abatement was completed within three days, by no later than October 16, 1989. Materials were available onsite to complete the abatement requirements of the Notice of Violation.

V. ASSESSMENT SUMMARY FOR N89-17-3-1

I. TOTAL HISTORY POINTS	<u>1</u>
II. TOTAL SERIOUSNESS POINTS	<u>40</u>
III. TOTAL NEGLIGENCE POINTS	<u>8</u>
IV. TOTAL GOOD FAITH POINTS	<u>-11</u>
 TOTAL ASSESSED POINTS	 <u>37</u>
 TOTAL ASSESSED FINE	 <u>\$540.00</u>