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# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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## INSPECTION REPORT

INSPECTION DATE & TIME: 11/19&20/91  
7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Permittee and/or Operator's Name: Soldier Creek Coal Company  
Business Address: P. O. Box 1, Price, Utah 84501 Ph: 637-6360  
Mine Name: Soldier Canyon Mine Permit Number: ACT/007/018  
Type of Mining Activity: Underground  Surface  Other   
County: Carbon Company Official(s): John Pappas, Dave Spillman  
State Officials(s): Priscilla Burton  
Federal Official(s):  
Partial:  Complete  Date of last Inspection: 10/8/91  
Weather Conditions: Clear, 40°s  
Acreage: Permitted 4,905 Disturbed 24 Regraded  Seeded approx. 1 acre Bonded 24  
Enforcement Action: None

### COMPLIANCE WITH PERMITS AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

	YES	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
1. PERMITS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE:				
a. STREAM CHANNEL DIVERSIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. DIVERSIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. SURFACE AND GROUNDWATER MONITORING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. EXPLOSIVES	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. NONCOAL WASTE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. SLIDES AND OTHER DAMAGE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. CONTEMPORANEOUS RECLAMATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
12. BACKFILLING AND GRADING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. REVEGETATION	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. SUBSIDENCE CONTROL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. CESSATION OF OPERATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. ROADS				
a. CONSTRUCTION	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. MAINTENANCE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. SUPPORT FACILITIES				
UTILITY INSTALLATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## INSPECTION REPORT

Page 2 of 3 PERMIT: ACT/007/018 DATE: 11/19 & 20/91

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

### 1. Permits

A portion of the first day of the inspection was devoted to a discussion and review of the legal/financial chapter of the new Mining and Reclamation Plan, submitted October 11, 1991. Several discrepancies were brought to Mr. Pappas' attention. **Mr. Pappas was advised to correct the items noted and associated maps prior to receiving a determination of Completeness from the Division.**

The recent approval (10/16/91) of exploration for a third fan site (ACT/007/018-91E) resulted in increasing the bonded area from 22.8 acres to 24.0 acres. The Company has submitted an Exhibit 'D' revising the Reclamation Agreement for the increased surface disturbance. The bonded acreage was increased from 22.8 to 24.0 acres. A copy of the signed Exhibit D will be sent under separate cover.

SC3 provided the Division with a copy of the Air Quality Approval Order, dated 9/9/91. The notice of intent can be found in Volume 8 (Surface Facilities Expansion) of the Mining and Reclamation Plan.

### 3. Topsoil

The topsoil storage site has been meticulously prepared for seeding. Each pile has been roughened on the sides and all of the compacted, traveled surfaces were ripped. **After placement of the remaining topsoil at the proposed third fan site, the topsoil storage yard will have final soil roughening and then hydroseeding and hydromulching of an interim seed mix.** All travelways and berms will be seeded as well. **The storage site will be seeded before Thanksgiving.**

A second culvert has been installed in the access road to the topsoil storage site. This culvert installation was approved by R. Summers, Division hydrologist.

### 4.c. Sediment Ponds

Siaperas Construction Co. was making the required improvements to the pond **as per S.Falvey's 11/12/91 letter to Mr. Pappas and as per the last quarterly pond inspection (9/9/91).** Work should be complete this week on the primary and emergency spillways and decant. Erosion of the sed. pond outslope was noted in the pond inspection, although the engineer performing the inspection did not perceive that the integrity of the embankment was impaired. This erosion was caused by flood conditions last August.

### 4.d. Other Sediment Control Measures

The REI access road (see Exhibit 10.1.1-1, Vol 8), culvert has not yet been repaired **after the summer flood.** Although the culvert is not Soldier Creek Coal Co.'s responsibility, it has an impact on the facilities. Mine water is discharged into Soldier Creek upstream of the REI culvert. At present, the stream is ponded by a dike just upstream of the mine water discharge. The purpose of the dike is to slow the flow of the stream through the blocked culvert, to allow the steady flow of mine water to also drain through the culvert without overtopping it. Upstream of the fan site, the flood debris has been caste aside from the REI road to form a large berm along the eastern side of the Creek. **Soldier Creek must impress upon REI the importance of clearing this culvert of debris, as soon as possible.**

Strawbales on the parking lot outslope may require maintenance. The strawbales are sediment laden and partially buried in the slope. The MRP (p 4-14c) specifies that vegetation, riprap, and soils with a high infiltration rate serve to protect the alternate sediment control area. Mr. Pappas stated that the strawbales are an artifact from the days before the asphalt berm around the parking lot was installed. Presently no sediment is leaving the disturbed area. No violation was noted, but this area should be carefully watched by the operator.

### 4.e. Surface and Ground H<sub>2</sub>O Monitoring

Surface monitoring is done four times a year: February, May, August and November for the parameters listed in Section 4-69 of the MRP. The results of analyses performed during the third quarter of 1991 were submitted to the Division on October 23, 1991. Mr. Pappas was preparing to ship the samples collected for the month of November.

In August site G2 ( upper Pine Crk) was dry; sites G1 (upper Sold. Crk) and G5 (lower Sold. Crk) were flowing at 6.7gpm and 1,243 gpm, respectively. A similar parameter of G1 and G5 was the pH (8.7). Site G5 was noticeably

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higher in all other parameters with the exception of sulfates and TSS.

All springs are sampled as per section 4-69 of the permit. Springs #3, #4, #15, #18 were dry in August. Springs #5, #8, #10 and #21 were flowing at approximately 1 gpm. Mr. Pappas indicated that flow in spring #21 was unusual, since it has remained dry for quite some time.

In mine ground water was sampled for flow, pH, conductivity and temperature during August at points UG-1N, UG-10E and UG-11E, and a new point: UG3W, located in 3rd west. This flow was recorded at approx. 160 gpm in the Rock Canyon Seam.

A discharge from NPDES point 001, MW-1 discharge, was sampled on 9/9/91. A flow of 200 gpm was recorded. A discharge from NPDES point 003, MW-2 discharge, was sampled on 9/9/91 and 9/17/91. The flow was recorded at 276 and 522 gpm. The second sample had a high oil & grease reading of 7.0 mg/L. Presently, the mine is discharging approx. 700,000 gpd.

No discharges were recorded for NPDES points 002 and 004.

Wells MW-1C, MW-1M, MW-2M, and MW-3M were sampled in August for baseline data on the waste-rock disposal site. Samples drawn from wells in the waste site were astonishingly high in TDS. i.e., 13,106 mg/L; 6,894 mg/L; 6,696 mg/L; and 12,456 mg/L, respectively.

**11. Contemporaneous Reclamation**

During the inspection, Environmental Industrial Services was hydroseeding/mulching the very steep road-cut created during the surface facilities expansion/road relocation (Permit issued 7/19/91, see Exhibit 10.1.1-1, Vol 8),). Equipment failure delayed the completion of this project, but the contractor will be seeding the "final reclamation" seed mix on the road cut, the Creek channel slope and the pipeline road in the next week. The contractor's crew was tacking erosion blankets on the seeded and mulched road-cut. Soldier Creek has done a good job on the specifications for this reclamation work.

**18. Support Facilities and Utility Installations**

The road to the proposed fan site is not yet complete. Equipment failure caused the road to be constructed at a sharp angle to the County Road. A corrective cut will bring the proposed fan road to the County road at a more gentle angle. Three drill holes were completed. All topsoil in the vicinity of the drill holes will be hauled to the topsoil storage site before the scheduled seeding at the topsoil storage site. Mr. Spillman agreed that some areas of the disturbance around the drill holes would be broadcast seeded this Fall.

Two leaky valves were noted on the fuel storage tanks inside the total containment structure. The containment structure has a drain in the southeast corner which is capped with a removeable cap. This cap must be replaced with a locking gate valve as is required in The CFR Title 40 Part 112.7, which is being sent under separate cover. Soldier Creek Coal must rectify this situation. In addition, regular hosing of the containment structure to remove coal fines is contrary to the approved method of disposal for non-coal waste (spilled fuel). Therefore, Soldier Creek must consider the construction of a canopy or of fabric screens to eliminate the accumulation of coal inside the containment structure. Thereby eliminating the need for regular hosing of the structure.

Copy of this Report:

Mailed to: John Kathmann (OSM); Johnny Pappas (SC3)  
Given to: Joe Helfrich and Daron Haddock (DOGM)

Inspector's Signature & Number: *Prudence Bouton* #37 Date: November 22, 1991