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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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1027
[Signature]

INSPECTION REPORT

INSPECTION DATE & TIME: May 7, 1991
8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Permittee and/or Operator's Name: Soldier Creek Coal Company
Business Address: P. O. Box I, Price, Utah 84501 Ph: 637-6360
Mine Name: Soldier Canyon Mine Permit Number: ACT/007/018
Type of Mining Activity: Underground X Surface Other
County: Carbon Company Official(s): John Pappas, Dave Spillman
State Officials(s): Priscilla Burton and Steve Demczak
Federal Official(s): Jeff Zingo
Partial: Complete X Date of last Inspection: 4/22/91
Weather Conditions: Sunshine, 50°'s
Acreage: Permitted 4,905 Disturbed 18.3 Regraded
Seeded Bonded 22.8 Enforcement Action: None

COMPLIANCE WITH PERMITS AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

	YES	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
1. PERMITS	(X)	()	()	(X)
2. SIGNS AND MARKERS	(X)	()	()	()
3. TOPSOIL	(X)	()	()	()
4. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE:				
a. STREAM CHANNEL DIVERSIONS	(X)	()	()	()
b. DIVERSIONS	(X)	()	()	(X)
c. SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS	(X)	()	()	()
d. OTHER SEDIMENT CONTROL MEASURES	(X)	()	()	(X)
e. SURFACE AND GROUNDWATER MONITORING	(X)	()	()	(X)
f. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS	(X)	()	()	()
5. EXPLOSIVES	(X)	()	()	(X)
6. DISPOSAL OF DEVELOPMENT WASTE & SPOIL	(X)	()	()	()
7. COAL PROCESSING WASTE	(X)	()	()	()
8. NONCOAL WASTE	(X)	()	()	()
9. PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES	(X)	()	()	(X)
10. SLIDES AND OTHER DAMAGE	()	()	(X)	()
11. CONTEMPORANEOUS RECLAMATION	()	()	(X)	()
12. BACKFILLING AND GRADING	(X)	()	()	()
13. REVEGETATION	()	()	(X)	()
14. SUBSIDENCE CONTROL	(X)	()	()	()
15. CESSATION OF OPERATIONS	()	()	(X)	()
16. ROADS				
a. CONSTRUCTION	()	()	(X)	()
b. DRAINAGE CONTROLS	(X)	()	()	()
c. SURFACING	()	()	(X)	()
d. MAINTENANCE	()	()	(X)	()
17. OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES	(X)	()	()	()
18. SUPPORT FACILITIES				
UTILITY INSTALLATIONS	(X)	()	()	()

INSPECTION REPORT

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PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/018

DATE OF INSPECTION: 5/07/91

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

1. Permits

Approval of the topsoil storage amendment, ACT/007/018-90-1, is expected. The Division has received an adequate response to all Technical Deficiencies. There will be 694 yd³ of topsoil cleared for the storage of 2,000 yd³ of landscape boulders/riprap. Also stored at the site will be substitute topsoil (4,000 yd³) and topsoil (2,000 yd³).

Approval of the topsoil storage site received the following comments from several agencies. The BLM requires that approval is subject to construction occurring mid-May to mid-November, with no construction during mid-November to mid-May for the protection of overwintering animals. And, the BLM also requires that the vegetation section includes a commitment on the operator's part to protect the sensitive plant species Hedysarum occidentale var. Canoe, which was noted in the area. The Utah State Historic Preservation office requires that no impact will result to the archeological site [42CB 188] in the vicinity of the construction. The DWR requires that the final reclamation mix must include the following shrubs:

Wyoming big sagebrush (Artemisia tridentata tridentata)
Mountain big sagebrush (Artemisia tridentata vaseyana)
Rubber Rabbitbrush (Chrysothamnus nauseosus hololeucus)
Winterfat (Eurotia lanata)

Other approvals recently given to SC3 were for:

Removal of the underground storage tanks to be replaced with above ground tanks - 4/15/91;
Drilling of monitoring wells for collecting data at the Waste Rock site - 3/14/91;
Repositioning of power poles to facilitate the road relocation - 4/24/91.

A reclamation agreement was signed 5/02/91 between D.O.G.M. and Soldier Creek Coal Company. The Agreement revised the disturbed acreage from 36.4 to 22.8 acres and maps 5.1-2 {Central Mine Facilities} and 6.1-1 {Sewage Lagoon Topsoil Storage Area} were included to show the extent of disturbance.

A rider to surety bond #8107-037-63 was written and signed April 16, 1991 from Federal Insurance Company (New Jersey), in the amount of \$1,940,000.00.

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PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/018

DATE OF INSPECTION: 5/07/91

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

1. Permits (Continued)

The liability insurance company is policy #TLJSLG-186T908-A-91 effective January 1, 1991 through Traveler's Indemnity Company (Connecticut). The Acord certificate was seen to insure bodily injury and property damage of \$300,000/occurrence and \$500,000 aggregate. The Acord form has been altered to comply with Article C of the Exhibit C of the Reclamation Agreement; i.e., the words "..endeavor to" were stricken from the insurance agreement and replaced with the positive commitment that the Division will be informed when substantive changes are made in the policy. A copy of the corrected form will be forwarded to the Division.

The Air Quality permit, issued 9/04/86, was found in the permit. This permit allows for a production of 1.75 MTPY without prior approval. As noted in the March complete inspection, tonnage produced in 1990 was 1,207,432 tons.

A scheduled emissions inventory was not done by the Department of Health in 1989 or 1990, due to a lack of manpower as noted in a letter dated 3/15/91.

The NPDES point source permit #UT0023680 is being revised. The public comment period was from April 15th to May 15, 1991.

Discharge from the mine flows into Soldier Creek, a tributary of the Price River, classified as 3C [Protected for non-game fish and other aquatic life] and 4 [Protected for agricultural uses, including irrigation of crops and stock watering]. The revised permit concentration limit of 1200 mg/L TDS daily average is the State's standard for a class 4 stream.

PERMIT #UT0023680 REVISED LIMITATIONS

Effluent Characteristics	Monthly Average	7 - Day Average	Daily Maximum	Sample Frequency
Flow				2/Mo
TSS	25	35	70	2/Mo
Iron (Total) Mg/L			2.0	1/Mo
TDS MG/L			1200	2/Mo
TDS (Total From All Outfalls)			5 Tons/Day	
Oil & Grease MG/L			10	1/Mo

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1. Permits (Continued)

The revised permit requires monthly submittals of Discharge Monitoring Reports. The revised permit has 6 outfalls; 3 were added for the proposed waste rock topsoil and storage sites down canyon from the mine's central facilities. The revised permit will expire 3/31/96.

4. Hydrologic Balance

b. Diversions

Several items were noted as we walked through the mine facilities area:

- 1) The 1/2 metal plate in front of the 24" diameter disturbed diversion ditch (at the site of the conveyor) had accumulated sediment that must be removed. Dave Spillman explained that the plate's function is to trap gravel and rocks to prevent their travel through the culvert where they may settle out and clog the flow. However, accumulations of rock and debris in front of the culvert impedes flow through the culvert. Pondered water in front of the culvert iced over and caused snowmelt to overflow around the culvert last winter. This water eventually drops into the drainage system and enters the sediment pond further downstream. But, as it travels under the conveyor belt and past the shop, it carries more coal, gas and oil to the sediment pond. The operator has completed this task as of this writing.
- 2) The enclosed 30" undisturbed diversion culvert runs underneath the conveyor. At the point where the corrugated metal pipe takes a 45° elbow turn, seepage around the collar was noted. Below the collar a dent was seen in the pipe. The operator investigated both potential problems immediately.
- 3) The 12" culvert collecting drainage from ASCA #3 (by Fan #2) is 1/2 plugged with sediment. This culvert requires maintenance. The operator is reluctant to perform the maintenance since relocation of the road will involve redesign of the culvert. The Division cannot postpone maintenance on culverts based on further construction work. This culvert must be cleared of debris sediment prior to the next inspection.

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4. Hydrologic Balance

d. Other Sediment Control Measures

Walking around the sediment pond embankments I noticed that several straw bales have toppled from the row at the top of the slope by the REI storage facility. The operator must re-stake these bales.

The permit described 6 alternate sediment control areas on pages 4-14 to 4-15 in the MRP.

- ASCA #1 = Topsoil/REI Storage Area
- ASCA #2 = Parking Lot Outslope
- ASCA #3 = Fan #2
- ASCA #4 = Northeast of Fan #2 on the REI Access Road
- ASCA #5 = Portal Development Area
- ASCA #6 = Sewage Lagoons

Of these, ASCA #5 is by far the largest area. Jeff Zingo was interested in the treatments for each area and took xeroxed copies of the ASCA descriptions from the MRP.

4. Hydrologic Balance

e. Surface and Ground H₂O 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. In February site G1 was inaccessible and site G2 was frozen. A sample was taken from site G5, downstream of the mine. The notable parameters were pH 8.85; temperature = 54°F; oil and grease <1.0; TDS-1196 mg/L; TSS-82 mg/L. All springs are sampled as per section 4-69 of the permit. No springs were flowing during the February sampling.

In mine ground water was sampled for flow, pH, conductivity and temperature during February at points UG-1N, UG-10E and UG-11E. The pH of these waters in February were 8.4, 8.38 and 8.8 respectively. Of these three points UG-11E is sampled for field parameters monthly and is the source of the majority of the water discharged at MW1 and MW2. A full analysis of UG-11E on 11/22/90 shows TDS to be 1,276 mg/L. At an output of 636 gpm this yields 4.8 tons TDS/day from the Blackhawk formation.

A discharge from NPDES point 001, MW-1 discharge, was sampled on March 23, 1991. The flow was 200 gpm; pH = 8.68; temperature = 63°F; TDS = 1026 mg/L (or 2,452 lbs/day, Division calculations).

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4. Hydrologic Balance

e. Surface and Ground H₂O Monitoring (Continued)

Point 003, MW-2 discharge, was sampled on March 19, 1991. The flow from this point was 720 gpm; pH = 8.81; temperature = 63°F; TDS = 1120 mg/L (or 5.02 tons/day).

An exceedence letter dated 4-08-91 was sent to the EPA noting the exceedence of the 1 ton daily maximum from point 003. This letter does not note the exceedence of the daily maximum from point 001, because of the short duration of the flow at MW1.

Jeff Zingo and I sampled NPDES point 003 at approximately 2:00 p.m. At 2:30 p.m., the discharge increased significantly in volume and was noticeably dark in color. The boundary between stream and discharge was clear and distinct. We sampled NPDES point 003 again at this time. Jeff Zingo then took samples from locations above and below point 003. My samples were kept in ice and delivered to the laboratory for analysis of TDS, TSS, SS, Fe, Mn, Mg, So₄, No₃, and No₂. Results should be available in 2 weeks time.

5. Explosives

The operator has 4 containers for explosives in the central mine facilities canyon. Two (2) of the storage containers were adequately marked. Two (2) belonging to a contractor were unmarked. The operator agreed to make certain that the contractor's storage containers were adequately marked before the next inspection.

9. Protection of Environmental Values

Soldier Creek Coal Company is to be commended for the efforts they have put forth to clear the roadside of accumulated coal dust. The buffer zone looks good.

Copy of this Report:

Mailed to: John Kathmann (OSM); Johnny Pappas (SC3)

Given to: Joe Helfrich and Daron Haddock (DOGM)

Inspector's Signature & Number: *Pasalle Bouton* #37

Date: May 14, 1991