

0017



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

Joh

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INSPECTION REPORT

Partial: Complete: X Exploration:
Inspection Date & Time: August 28, 1996, 12:00 to 3:00 PM
Date of Last Inspection: July 5, 1996

Mine Name: Soldier Canyon County: Carbon Permit Number: ACT/007/018
Permittee and/or Operator's Name: Soldier Creek Coal Company
Business Address: P. O. Box I, Price, Utah 84501
Type of Mining Activity: Underground X Surface Prep. Plant Other
State Official(s): Paul Baker
Company Official(s): John Frederick
Federal Official(s): None
Weather Conditions: Sunny, 80's
Existing Acreage: Permitted- 5186.17 Disturbed- 24 Regraded- 0 Seeded- 0 Bonded- 95.2
Increased/Decreased: Permitted- 0 Disturbed- 0 Regraded- 0 Seeded- 0 Bonded- 0
Status: Exploration/ X Active/ Inactive/ Temporary Cessation/ Bond Forfeiture
Reclamation (Phase I/ Phase II/ Final Bond Release/ Liability Year)

REVIEW OF PERMIT, PERFORMANCE STANDARDS & PERMIT CONDITION REQUIREMENTS

Instructions

- Substantiate the elements on this inspection by checking the appropriate performance standard.
 - For complete inspections provide narrative justification for any elements not fully inspected unless element is not appropriate to the site, in which case check N/A.
 - For partial inspections check only the elements evaluated.
- Document any noncompliance situation by referencing the NOV issued at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
- Reference any narratives written in conjunction with this inspection at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
- Provide a brief status report for all pending enforcement actions, permit conditions, Division Orders, and amendments.

	EVALUATED	N/A	COMMENTS	NOV/ENF
1. PERMITS, CHANGE, TRANSFER, RENEWAL, SALE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>
4. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE:				
a. DIVERSIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. OTHER SEDIMENT CONTROL MEASURES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. WATER MONITORING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. EXPLOSIVES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. DISPOSAL OF EXCESS SPOIL/FILLS/BENCHES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. COAL MINE WASTE/REFUSE PILES/IMPOUNDMENTS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. CONTEMPORANEOUS RECLAMATION	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. BACKFILLING AND GRADING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. REVEGETATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. ROADS:				
a. CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/SURFACING	<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"/>
17. OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. SUPPORT FACILITIES/UTILITY INSTALLATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. AVS CHECK (4th Quarter-April, May, June)_(date)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. AIR QUALITY PERMIT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21. BONDING & INSURANCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

Page 2 of 2

PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/018

DATE OF INSPECTION: August 28, 1996

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

1. Permits, Change, Transfer, Renewal, Sale

On August 8, 1996, the Division completed an administrative completeness review of the Alkali Lease significant revision. The plan was considered incomplete because of the lack of certain ownership and control, right of entry, soils, and vegetation information.

4. Hydrologic Balance

a. Diversions

On the east side of the Carbon County road, there is a cut that was made in 1991 as part of the mine expansion. The road and the cut are within Soldier Creek's disturbed area boundary, but I'm unsure if maintenance of the ditch at the bottom of the cut is the responsibility of the County or of Soldier Creek. Quite a few rocks have fallen into the ditch and need to be cleaned out. Mr. Frederick said he would have someone clean the ditch.

There are two drop inlets to a culvert on the east side of the road. Even though these were cleaned last spring, quite a few coal fines have accumulated in them. I don't think it's essential that they be cleaned right away, but I advise it.

The July inspection report mentioned that the inlet to a 24-inch culvert above one of the conveyors needed to be cleaned. The operator has performed this maintenance.

b. Sediment Ponds and Impoundments

This past spring, the operator cleared some brush from the top of the sediment pond embankment. Earlier, brush was cleared from the sewage lagoon embankment. The quarterly pond inspection report for the sewage lagoon says:

Some vegetation regrowth was noted on the embankment top and in-slopes. While not a problem yet, the vegetation should be removed and/or controlled this growing season.

There has also been a lot of regrowth on the top of the sediment pond embankment. Much of the brush was rabbitbrush which tends to resprout if the crown is not entirely removed. I suggest the operator consider using an herbicide, such as 2,4-D.

e. Effluent Limitations

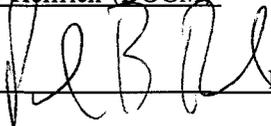
About 3/4 of the water in Soldier Creek is from mine discharge. The stream substrate below the mine discharge is much darker than above the discharge. I think there is some coal coming from the mine discharge, but the main reason appears to be a dark-colored alga in downstream sections.

The UPDES report for May indicates one exceedance. The average total suspended solids value of two samples was 26 mg/L. The concentration in one sample was 0 mg/L, and the value for the second sample was 52 mg/L. Soldier Creek reported this exceedance to the Division of Water Quality and the Division.

Copy of this Report:

Mailed to: Dave Spillman and Keith Zobell (Soldier Creek), James Fulton (OSM)

Given to: Joe Helfrich (DOGM)

Inspector's Signature:  Paul B. Baker #41 Date: September 9, 1996