



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

INSPECTION REPORT

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor
Ted Stewart
Executive Director
James W. Carter
Division Director

1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801
(801) 538-5340
(801) 359-3940 (Fax)

Partial:___ Complete:XXX Exploration:___
Inspection Date & Time: 5/26/98 / 9:00a.m.-12:00p.m.
Date of Last Inspection: 4/24/98

Mine Name: Soldier Canyon Mine County: Carbon Permit Number: ACT/007/018
Permittee and/or Operator's Name: Canyon Fuel Company
Business Address: P.O. Box 1029, Wellington, Utah 84542
Type of Mining Activity: Underground XXX Surface ___ Prep. Plant___ Other___
Company Official(s): Dave Spillman, Dusty Huntington
State Officials(s): Peter Hess Federal Official(s): None
Weather Conditions: Overcast, Extremely High Velocity Winds
Existing Acreage: Permitted- 5186.17 Disturbed- 24 Regraded- 0 Seeded- 0 Bonded- 95.2
Increased/Decreased: Permitted-___ Disturbed-___ Regraded-___ Seeded-___ Bonded-___
Status: Exploration/ XXX 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

- 1. Substantiate the elements on this inspection by checking the appropriate performance standard.
a. 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.
b. For partial inspections check only the elements evaluated.
2. Document any noncompliance situation by referencing the NOV issued at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
3. Reference any narratives written in conjunction with this inspection at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
4. Provide a brief status report for all pending enforcement actions, permit conditions, Division Orders, and amendments.

Table with 5 columns: Item, EVALUATED, N/A, COMMENTS, NOV/ENF. Rows include items like PERMITS, CHANGE, TRANSFER, RENEWAL, SALE; SIGNS AND MARKERS; TOPSOIL; HYDROLOGIC BALANCE; DIVERSIONS; SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS; etc.



INSPECTION REPORT
(Continuation sheet)

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PERMIT NUMBER: **ACT/007/018**

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(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

1. PERMITS, CHANGE, TRANSFER, RENEWAL, SALE

According to Mr. Dave Spillman, the completion of the sale of the Canyon Fuel Company mines to ARCH Minerals will be completed by June 1, 1998. The revision of Chapter 1 for the Soldier Canyon mining and reclamation plan will be followed up on upon completion of the sale.

3. TOPSOIL

The spraying of cheat grass at the Soldier Canyon topsoil storage area has been completed. According to Mr. Spillman, the spraying took place on at least three occasions. The undisturbed area surrounding the topsoil storage area is naturally overgrown with this species of undesirable vegetative cover. It is not known if the control of cheat grass within the disturbed area is an achievable solution due to the potential for regermination from the undisturbed.

According to Mr. Spillman, the piles have been re-seeded with a grass species that has competitive potential against cheat grass.

The nature of the cheat grass issue was raised by this inspector during the summer of 1997 when, what appeared to be the only vegetation on the topsoil piles was dead cheat grass and four winged salt bush. In this flat area, the protection of the topsoil from wind is of utmost importance.

If the new species of grasses do not perform as expected, the permittee may want to consider an artificial means for controlling soil loss due to wind erosion.

4b. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS

First quarter 1997 impoundment inspections for the mine site pond and the sewage lagoons were conducted by Mr. Steve Nye, mining engineer on March 23.

In the mine site pond, the water level was approximately two feet below the decant elevation. At the sewage lagoons, Mr. Nye reported dead vegetation along the gravel inslopes. No other problems were noted.

Today's field inspection revealed no problems for either impoundment.

It is not known if MSHA still offers the impoundment inspection qualification course.

