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# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

## INSPECTION REPORT

*SPD*

Michael O. Leavitt  
Governor  
Kathleen Clarke  
Executive Director  
Lowell P. Braxton  
Division Director

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PO Box 145801  
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Partial:      Complete: XXX Exploration:       
Inspection Date & Time: 7/10/2000 / 1:30a.m.-3:30p.m.  
Date of Last Inspection: 4/13/2000

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  
State Officials(s): Peter Hess Federal Official(s): None  
Weather Conditions: Sunny, Warm, 80's  
Existing Acreage: Permitted-6624.64 Disturbed-24.32 Regraded-      Seeded-      Bonded- 97.7  
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.

	EVALUATED	N/A	COMMENTS	NOV/ENF
1. PERMITS, CHANGE, TRANSFER, RENEWAL, SALE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. EXPLOSIVES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. SUBSIDENCE CONTROL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. CESSATION OF OPERATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/>
19. AVS CHECK (4th Quarter-April, May, June) _____ (date)	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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(Continuation sheet)

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(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

4b. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS

The second quarter impoundment inspections for the mine site sediment pond and the sewage lagoons were conducted by Mr. Spillman on May 16, 2000. There were no hazardous conditions noted for either impoundment. It was not possible to estimate the elevation of sediment in the mine site pond, although it was noted that the water elevation in same is 3-4 feet below the primary decant.

There were no unusual conditions noted with either pond during today's field inspection.

4d. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: WATER MONITORING

The permittee submitted the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter water monitoring report for the Soldier Canyon site to the UDNR/OGM on June 21, 2000; same was received in the Price Field Office on June 28, 2000.

Discharge monitoring reports for the sites three UPDES discharge points were reviewed for the months of January, February, and March. There were no outfalls for any of the three discharge points during the first quarter.

First quarter surface and ground water monitoring was conducted on March 29, 2000. Water samples were collected from surface water sample points G-5, G-6, and G-10. Ground water monitoring points 5, 10, 23, and 24 as well as drill hole sites 6-1, 10-2 and 32-1 were reported as being inaccessible.

Surface water sample point G-10 had a TDS value to be reported at 2530 mg/l for the March 29, 2000 sample. This value was confirmed from the ACZ laboratory sheet. It is not known why this site has such an unusually high TDS value(s).

There were no other water chemistry parameters noted as being unusually high for the three samples reported. There were no total or dissolved iron values reported.

10. SLIDES AND OTHER DAMAGE

As noted in a partial inspection report which was conducted on July 5, 2000, a methane explosion occurred at the Soldier Canyon Mine when a lightning ground strike ignited a combustible methane/air mixture near the #2 air shaft (adjacent to the main County road). As reported, four of the nine seals were blown out. As noted on 7/5/00 and today, the backfilling of these portals with noncombustible earth materials (required by MSHA) is still ongoing. Extra fill material from the Dugout Mine (80% imported fill/20% sediment pond clean out) is being used (as approved by the Division) as part of the soil volume to backfill the sealed areas.

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14. SUBSIDENCE CONTROL

Mr. Spillman is anticipating submitting a permit amendment to modify the currently approved subsidence monitoring plan for the site. Mining ceased at Soldier Canyon in October of 1998. It is generally agreed by rock mechanics experts that ninety percent or more of planned subsidence occurs within the first year of secondary coal extraction. Based on this fact, plus the fact that mining ceased at Soldier Canyon approximately two years ago, the permittee would like to discontinue the current monitoring regime. Division approval is required.

15. CESSATION OF OPERATIONS

With the recent damage to the temporary mine seals at Soldier Canyon, Mr. Spillman was questioned as to the "temporary cessation" classification which has been applied for and approved through the Division. According to Mr. Spillman, there is to be no change to that status (i.e., temporary cessation) as far as the permittee is concerned.

21. BONDING AND INSURANCE

The permittee's general liability insurance expires on July 31, 2000. Mr. Spillman is aware that this is due for renewal.

**Note:** This inspection report does not constitute an affidavit of compliance with the regulatory program of the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining.

Copy of this Report:

Mailed to: Dave Spillman (Canyon Fuel)

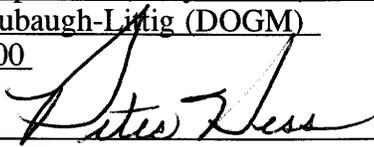
Henry Austin (OSM)

Given to: Pam Grubaugh-Litig (DOGM)

Filed to: Price Field Office

Date: July 13, 2000

Inspector's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Peter Hess

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