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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: April 24, 1991
12:45 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Permittee and/or Operator's Name: Soldier Creek Coal Co/Savage
Business Address: P. O. Box I, Price, Utah 84501 Phone: 637-6360
Mine Name: Banning Siding Loadout Permit Number: ACT/007/034
Type of Mining Activity: Underground Surface Other
County: Carbon Company Official(s): John Pappas, Boyd Rhodes
State Official(s): Priscilla Burton
Federal Official(s): None
Partial: Complete: Date of last Inspection: 3/29/91
Weather Conditions: Overcast, 50°'s
Acreage: Permitted 36 Disturbed Regraded 26.1 Seeded
Bonded 21.4 Enforcement Action: None

COMPLIANCE WITH PERMITS AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

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

INSPECTION REPORT

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PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/034

DATE OF INSPECTION: 4/24/91

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

4. Hydrologic Balance:

- b. The diversion ditch surrounding the site was clear of debris. The sediment pond contained water but was not discharging. Slight erosion of the side slopes was noticeable, as noted in the 12/11/90 quarterly pond inspection.

- e. Groundwater is routinely pumped from beneath the reclaim belt. The water is then pumped to the sediment pond where it evaporates.

A sample of the groundwater was taken on 9/14/90 for analysis. The following parameters were noteworthy:

	2/14/90	Baseline 7/01/88
Hardness as CaCO ₃	2433 mg/L	2250
Sulfate	2702 mg/L	2330
Total Dissolved Solids	4376 mg/L	3972
Total Suspended Solids	8 mg/L	-2
Oil and Grease	3 mg/L	-1
Iron, Dissolved	-.02	.04
Iron, Total	.22 mg/L	.07
pH.	7.5	N/A

11. Contemporaneous Reclamation

Contemporaneous Reclamation of the substation disturbance. The substation was installed in 1990. The disturbance around the substation was seeded and mulched on 2/15/90. No vegetation has emerged. This soil is the Typic Torrifuvent (Ravola series) described in the MRP without any coal on the surface.

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13. Revegetation

The annual report contains productivity analysis for the test plot and the reference area. The species predominating on the test plot are Agropyron cristatum (crested wheat), Kochia americana (Gray Molly), and Halogeton glomeratus. None of these species were seeded. Plant cover represents approximately 2.1% of the plot.

In 1990, the reference area's annual productivity was surveyed at 350 lbs/acre ("high fair" condition) with the potential for 700 lbs/acre in normal water years. This level of productivity is substantially lower than the 800 lbs/acre noted in the 1987 initial evaluation of the reference area by the SCS. At that time, the reference area was also described as "high fair" condition. The reference area now appears to be heavily grazed.

The operator has agreed to re-paint the reference area stakes with a bright orange color.

A new test plot is necessary at this site. The objective of the new test plot should be to maximize germination and survival of one species rather than using the complete reclamation mix. The test plots can be used to evaluate amendments to the soil as determined by the successful establishment of one chosen species. Information gained can then be applied to the establishment of a second testplot which will include the complete reclamation mix.

A review of the MRP indicates that the soils at Banning have pH values ≥ 9.0 and are high in potassium and sodium salts. Further discussion of test plot treatments will be included in the mid-term permit review.

The Operator would like to change the location of the test plots to make room for expansion at the Banning Siding site. A new location should be chosen in the next 5 months. The new test plot should be developed and seeded as soon as possible.

Copy of this Report:

Mailed to: Johnny Pappas, SC3; Brian Smith, OSM.
Given to: Daron Haddock, DOGM; Joe Helfrich, DOGM

Inspector's Signature & Number:  #37
Date: 5/2/91