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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING  
RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

219 CENTRAL AVENUE, NW  
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87102

Inspection Date: 09/13/82

INSPECTION REPORT DISTRIBUTION

TO:	<u>      X      </u>	OSM FILE
	<u>      X      </u>	STATE
	<u>          </u>	COMPANY
	<u>      X      </u>	REGULATORY AND INSPECTION, WASHINGTON
	<u>      X      </u>	TECHNICAL CENTER
	<u>          </u>	MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE
	<u>          </u>	BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
	<u>          </u>	BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
	<u>          </u>	U.S. FOREST SERVICE
	<u>          </u>	INDIAN TRIBE

FROM: JODIE MERRIMAN

Office of Surface Mining  
MINE SITE EVALUATION INSPECTION REPORT

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INSPECTION NUMBER

INSPECTION DATE

I. MINE SITE

1. Permittee SOLDIER CREEK COAL CO
2. Permittee Address  
Post Office Box I  
Price, Utah 84501
3. Location of Mine  
a. County Emery  
b. State Utah
4. Name of Mine Hidden Valley
5. Telephone \_\_\_\_\_
6. Date of Last State  
Inspection 04/22/82
7. Permit No. ACT/015/022
- MSHA No. \_\_\_\_\_
- OSM No. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Status (check one)  
a.  Active  
b.  In reclamation  
c.  Inactive  
d.  Abandoned
9. Type of Facility  
a.  Surface  
b.  Underground  
c.  Other -  
Specify \_\_\_\_\_
10. Steep Slope  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_  
No X
11. Mountain Top Removal  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_  
No X
12. Prime Farm Land  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_  
No X

II. TYPE OF OSM INSPECTION

- A. Complete Inspection: Check appropriate box
1.  Statistical Sample Inspection
2.  Others (citizen compliant inspections or second phase/  
assistance inspections - specify.)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- B. Other-Than-Complete-Inspection: Check appropriate box and  
reason for inspection.
1.  Statistical Sample Follow-up (date of Complete  
Inspection \_\_\_\_\_.)

- (a)  10-Day Notice follow-up (State failed to notify OSM or to take appropriate action).
- (b)  Federal NOV follow-up.
- (c)  Federal CO follow-up.
- (d)  Others - Specify \_\_\_\_\_

2.  Citizen Complaint Inspections

- (a)  Citizen's Complaint - imminent hazard or harm to public or to environment.
- (b)  Citizen's Complaint - 10-Day Notice follow-up (State failed to notify OSM or take appropriate action).
- (c)  Citizen's Complaint - 10-Day Notice follow-up (sample).
- (d)  Other - Specify \_\_\_\_\_

III. COMPLIANCE INFORMATION

Indicate the appropriate number for each performance standard (See instructions for clarification of the numbering system):

- 1. In compliance,
- 2. Not in compliance (State took action),
- 3. Not in compliance (State has not taken action),
- 4. Not in compliance (other),
- 5. Not applicable.

A. Performance standards that limit the effects of surface mining to the permit area:

<u>1</u>	1. Run-off control	<u>4</u>	6. Ground water monitoring
<u>4</u>	2. Surface water monitoring	<u>1</u>	7. Haul road maintenance
<u>5</u>	3. Mining within permit boundaries	<u>5</u>	8. Refuse impoundment
<u>5</u>	4. Blasting procedures	<u>1</u>	9. Signs and markers
<u>5</u>	5. Effluent limits		

B. Performance standards that assure reclamation quality and timeliness:

<u>4</u>	1. Topsoil handling	<u>4</u>	7. Timing of revegetation
<u>5</u>	2. Backfilling & grading		
<u>4</u>	3. Timing of reclamation	<u>4</u>	8. Highwall elimination
<u>4</u>	4. Success of revegetation		
<u>5</u>	5. Disposal of excess spoil	<u>5</u>	9. Downslope spoil disposal
<u>5</u>	6. Handling of acid or toxic materials	<u>4</u>	10. Post mining land use

C. For each standard marked (2), what action(s) has the State taken to cause the violation to be corrected?

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D. For each standard marked (3), indicate what action(s) the State should have taken.

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E. For each standard marked (4), explain why it is unknown whether or not the State has failed to take appropriate action.

Utah's policy on inactive mines is not clear at this time. Apparently if there is a possibility of the mine being reactivated then complete reclamation is not required. This mine has been inactive for over 2 years. Utah will be asked to clarify their position on inactive sites.

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VI. ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

- 12 1. Hours travel to and from site
- 5 2. Acreage of permit
- 2 3. Inspection time (on site)
- 4 4. Permit review time
- 3 5. Report-writing time

Jodie Merriman  
Signature

11-5-82  
Date

Jodie Merriman  
Print Name of Authorized Representative

Ann G. Kurt  
Reviewed By

11-5-82  
Date

The following information was gathered from State files:

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: W 1/2 Sec. 17 & Sec. 18 T.235., R.6E. Emery County  
7 miles south of Emery

OWNERSHIP: Private coal and surface

The MRP was submitted to UDOGM in September, 1979. A letter was sent to the company on 10/29/79 outlining deficiencies in the plan. On 11/19/79 a letter from OSM was sent to the company, after a brief review, raising the following concerns: the high sulfur content of coal, the lack of drainage plans for the roads, subsidence and the high SAR values in soil samples.

On 12/12/79 a joint State/OSM inspection was conducted. Test drilling had been completed at this time. Bond was estimated at \$152,500 on 12/05/79.

Amendments to the MRP were submitted on 12/21/79 and 01/04/80. Tentative approval was given on 02/04/80. On 04/04/80 the operator signed a Mined Lands Reclamation Agreement with the Board and was not required to post a bond. The Board decided, instead, to accept the personal guarantee of the operator. Final approval was given on 04/14/80. According to a letter from the company, activity began on 04/14/80. A variance was granted on 05/02/80 to allow the company to build a road within 100 feet of the Ivie Creek.

#### Inspections Conducted

05/13/80 - Joint State/OSM

06/12/80 - State - Violation issued for failure to remove, stockpile and protect topsoil. The company was required to cease all activity, consolidate excavated topsoil, and submit topsoil plans to the Division. Plans were submitted on 06/18/80.

09/16/80 - OSM - Notice of Violation No. 80-5-7-21 was issued. Violation No. 1 was for failure to pass runoff through a sediment pond. Violation No. 2 was for failure to utilize channel lining in the undisturbed drainage.

10/09/80 - State - informed OSM that violations issued on 09/16/80 had been abated.

01/29/81 - State - The pad and sediment pond construction had been completed and the topsoil stockpile was seeded. The mine was inactive on this date. The company was informed that the mine could not be reactivated until a new MRP was approved under the permanent pro-

03/03/81 - State - Mine still inactive.

04/22/82 - State - The mine is inactive, with no sign of recent activity. The site seems fairly stable except for some slumpage of the highwall above the portals.

On 03/23/81 the company sent a letter to the Division saying that due to the poor coal market, they would not present a new mine plan.

Joint State/OSM Inspection 09/13/82

The access road appeared to be in good shape. The road was bermed and it appeared that all drainage would be directed into the sediment pond. The pond was dry and vegetation was growing in the bottom. The slopes and banks of the pond were bare. The topsoil stockpile was mostly bare with large erosion gullies. Highwall slumpage was evident above both the upper and lower portals and apparently caused the collapse of the upper portal.

Slides were taken of the mine area.

Jodie Merriman  
Reclamation Specialist