0006

January 25, 1983

Inspection Memo
to Coal File:

RE: Soldier Creek Coal Company
Hidden Valley Mine
INA/015/007
Emery County, Utah

DATES:	January 6 and 11, 1983
TIMES:	8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.; 2:15 p.m.-3:15 p.m., respectively
WEATHER:	Clear, Sunny
COMPANY OFFICIALS:	Dave Spillman and Scott Nordness for paperwork only
STATE OFFICIALS:	John Whitehead (Everett Hooper accompanied on tour of minesite)
FEDERAL OFFICIAL:	Jodie Merriman and Frank Atencio for paperwork only

Compliance With Permanent Performance Standards

771 et al Permits

Based on a review of the file in the Division offices, the following approvals and permits were in the file:

1. A letter of October 6, 1978 from Tom Paluso of Soldier Creek Coal Company (SCCC) apprises the Division of the new mine.

2. A memo dated July 25, 1979 from Ron Daniels notes his decision to allow SCCC to submit a Mining and Reclamation Plan (MRP) under the interim program to allow approval process to proceed.

3. On September 7, 1979, the interim plan from SCCC was received.

4. September 13, 1979, completed and signed MR-1 Forms were received by the Division signed by M. D. Ross of SCCC.

5. A letter of December 5, 1979 identifies a proposed bonding amount of $152,500 and notes a corporate guarantee idea as proposed by Ron Daniels as being acceptable to SCCC.

6. A Mined Lands Reclamation Contract dated April 4, 1980 notes the personal guarantee of the operator is accepted in lieu of the bond for an estimated cost of reclamation of $152,500.

7. A final approval letter from the Division dated April 14, 1980, signed by Ron Daniels noted that no adverse comments were received during the 30-day comment period prior to final aproval.

8. A letter dated April 16, 1980 from SCCC signed by Tom Paluso advises the Division of commencement of construction activity slated for April 17, 1980.

9. A letter dated September 9, 1980 from the Department of Health grants approval on construction of the sediment ponds.

10. Inspection memo of January 29, 1981 notes no further activity is occurring at the minesite. The mine is essentially inactive.

11. A letter from Tom Paluso of SCCC dated March 23, 1981 notes the Company's decision not to submit a MRP under the permanent program, therefore, placing the mine on an inactive status indefinitely.

12. Photos in the Division's files document activity occurring through at least June 13, 1980.

UMC 817.11 Signs and Markers

An entry sign was properly posted at the entrance to the mine. No perimeter markers were observed.

UMC 817.21-.25 Topsoil

The topsoil pile was recently reshaped to address the erosion problem which had been noted in an earlier inspection. The pile was reshaped to produce a less steep slope on the sides of the stockpile to promote vegetation growth and minimize erosion.

Reseeding of the topsoil for stabilization and protection measures will be necessary. In a phone call on January 12, 1983, Mr. Scott Nordness was apprised that optimal seeding conditions did exist presently with the pile being in the softened condition allowing seed to be raked in before the next precipitation event occurs. Approval to reshape the topsoil pile was granted during the inspection on January 6, 1983.

UMC 817.52 Surface and Ground Water Monitoring

During the initial planning and start-up stages of Hidden Valley, baseline hydrologic monitoring was undertaken. However, upon ceasing operations no further ground water or surface water monitoring has been undertaken by the company.

UMC 817.101 Backfilling and Grading

SCCC has recently taken action to seal 3 of the 4 existing portals at the Hidden Valley Minesite by backfilling with material from the highwall above. The northernmost two entries were backfilled with soil material which excludes entry by persons on-site. The southernmost portal on the eastern side of the minesite has also been backfilled with earthen material. However, the

access to that portal is still possible and some fencing may be necessary. The northernmost portal on the eastern side of the minesite is fenced with an appropriate warning sign present.

A letter dated January 11, 1983 from Scott Nordness of SCCC notes that warning signs will be installed in the near future to identify any openings which remain.

UMC 817.111-.117 Revegetation

Much of the area surrounding the minesite which was disturbed during construction is currently not revegetated to any extent. A significant amount of halogeton is growing on the site and is the predominant vegetation type in many of the disturbed sites. Little, if any evidence of successful revegetation, either interim or permanent, is apparent.

JOHN J. WHITEHEAD
FIELD SPECIALIST

cc: Tom Ehmett, OSM
Tom Paluso, SCCC
Joe Helfrich, DOGM

JJW/btb

Statistics:

For January 6, 1983

See Soldier Creek Coal Company memo dated January 18, 1983

For January 11, 1983

Vehicle: #EX 45429--391 miles
Per Diem: None
Grant: A & E