

Document Information Form

Mine Number: C1041/002

File Name: Incoming

To: DOGM

From:

Person N/A

Company Southern UTAH FUEL COMPANY

Date Sent: N/A

Explanation:

Region V ON-SITE INSPECTION

cc:

File in: C1041, 002, Incoming

Refer to:

- Confidential
- Shelf
- Expandable

Date _____ For additional information

REGION V ON-SITE INSPECTION

SOUTHERN UTAH FUEL CO.
COASTAL STATES ENERGY CO.
SUFCO
P.O. BOX P
SALINA, UTAH 84656

JLL

#7

DATE: May 10, 1979
TIME: 1:00 P. - 6:15P.
WEATHER: Cold and Snow Flurries
COUNTY & STATE: Sevier County, Utah
STATE FILE # *ACT* - 041-002 <
MSHA FILE # 42-00089
COMPANY OFFICIALS: Kerry Frame, Wesley Sorensen
STATE OFFICIALS: Mary Ann Wright
FOREST SERVICE: Darrel Hintze, Lynn Findlay
OSM OFFICIALS: Ray Lewis, Gary Fritz

GENERAL COMMENTS

This initial on-site inspection was conducted at the new mine site located in Spring Canyon, a side canyon to Convulsion Canyon. Spring and Convulsion Canyons are both located on the southern portion of the Wasatch Plateau, in Eastern Sevier County. Federal and fee coal is being produced from the 15 foot Hiawatha seam in excess of 1½ million tons per year.

717.11 GENERAL OBLIGATIONS

Mr. Frame was unable to find the state approved mining plan and permit which resulted in an issuance of a Notice of Violation. The approved 211 mine plan was available for review as was the water monitoring data for the NPDES permit.

717.12 SIGNS AND MARKERS

The mine and permit identification sign observed at the access point to the mine was acceptable. There was some discussion about a trail that is being used by sheepherders and the miners, but it is not an access point from a public highway.

717.14 BACKFILLING AND GRADING

The minesite is located in the lower end of Spring Canyon and is on ten acres of cut and fill material, generally level on two benches. The top pad near the west branch of the drainage is being enlarged for several buildings and a coal storage area. Additional storage space is being set aside for occasional labor and equipment problems. The storage pad was cut in a steep slope that had saved for reclamation which is a violation

File in:

Refer to Record No. 0009 Date _____
In C/ 041, 702 Incoming _____
For additional information

REGION V ON-SITE INSPECTION

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717.14 BACKFILLING AND GRADING

A trail going up to the water storage tank is used by the Forest Service but it is a part of the permit area that should have been graded and maintained for erosion control. There are also several slopes behind the main portal and the business office that had slumped and were not graded or planted.

717.15 DISPOSAL OF EXCESS MATERIALS

Development rock and sediment from the sediment trap have been dumped below the cropline in several areas that were not authorized after the interim standards were put in effect. The mine drainage and the runoff from above the affected area runs through one of the dump areas. This has magnified the problems associated with the situation because it saturates the unstable slope and contributes to offsite pollution.

A plan for the disposal of the development rock has been submitted to the regulatory authorities, but it has not been approved. Reclamation in this area will be difficult and expensive due to the 400 foot plus steep slopes; fortunately, they stopped dumping the material three weeks ago.

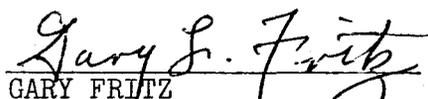
717.17 PROTECTION OF THE HYDROLOGIC SYSTEM

An elaborate drainage system has been installed at the minesite surface facility in East Spring Canyon. It consists of several hundred four and six feet diameter culverts that isolates the natural flow of the canyon which is intermittent from the minesite. The mine drainage water is pumped out of the mine into this culvert and does not come in contact with the minesite surface.

A concrete sediment trap has been installed to filter the minesite drainage during rainstorms or snow melt. This is a point discharge that is permitted, but the water monitoring data on this structure was not reviewed. Coal dust and oil are removed by the filter, but due to the screen size of the filters, water is often backed up at the facility. Sediment from this trap has been cast over the bench along with development rock and excess mine waste.

This material contributes to offsite pollution because a sediment pond has not been installed below the canyon. Three hundred gallons of mine water is being pumped per, per minute, into the canyon dump area. This amount will be increased as soon as a 400,000 gallon reservoir area is cleared underground.

Water samples have been taken by three or four different agencies at three different points.


GARY FRITZ
RECLAMATION SPECIALIST



United States Department of the Interior
OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
Reclamation and Enforcement
POST OFFICE BLDG. RM. 270
1823 STOUT STREET
DENVER, COLORADO 80202

*File SUR CO
Environ.*

May 31, 1979

Ron Daniels
Co-Ordinator of Mine Land Development
Div. of Oil and Gas
Dept. of Natural Resources
1588 N. West Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

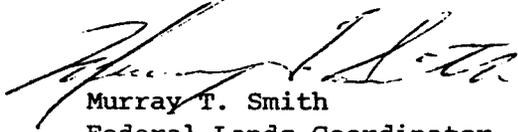


Dear Ron,

Enclosed please find copies of on-site inspection reports. The inspections were conducted within the State of Utah during the period of May 10

If you have any questions or problems, please contact this office.

Sincerely,


Murray T. Smith
Federal Lands Coordinator

May 16, 1979

Memo to Coal File:

RE: Convulsion Canyon Mine
Southern Utah Fuel Company
ACT/041/002

This mine was inspected by Office of Surface Mining personnel Gary Fritz and Ray Lewis and by Mary Ann Wright of the Division on May 10, 1979. Darrel Hintze and Lynn Findlay of the U.S. Forest Service, Richfield District, accompanied the inspectors. Mr. Kerry Frame and Wes Sorensen represented Southern Utah Fuel Company.

Problem areas noted during the inspection were the following:

1. No topsoil was stockpiled prior to construction of new facilities at the mouth of Mud Canyon.
2. No topsoil was stockpiled prior to cutting into the mountainside to provide for a coal stockpile area.
3. Slumping had occurred on the highwall behind and to the east of the office.
4. The upper road to the water tank had not been stabilized.
5. The mine water discharge point was noted. An N.P.D.E.S. permit exists for this discharge point.
6. The discharge point from the sediment tank into the main culvert does not have an N.P.D.E.S. permit.
7. The riparian habitat of East Spring Canyon is disturbed. Materials which have been dumped over the fill edge have washed down this boulder filled canyon and covered the area in the path of the stream course with coal-containing materials.

Memo to Coal File
SUF
ACT/014/002
May 16, 1979
Page Two

8. Waste was evident on the slope down to the canyon in two small areas. These areas are off the lease site and cleanup plans are in progress between SUFCO and the U.S. Forest Service.

Violations for the mine site were as follows:

1. 717.17 Runoff does not pass through a sediment pond. Plans for such are to be submitted to the Division by July 10, 1979.
2. 717.15 Failure to dispose of excess rock and earth material in an area approved by the Division. Dispose according to plans by July 10, 1979.
3. 717.14 Failure to grade road cuts, mine entry cuts and other surface work areas. The affected area is the highwall behind the office and warehouse. Compliance by July 10, 1979.
4. 717.11 No permit was available at the mine site. Compliance by June 10, 1979.

Violations were not issued for not stockpiling topsoil as noted in observations #1 and #2 and for not having an N.P.D.E.S. permit as described in observation #6. These matters have since been discussed with the Office of Surface Mining inspector Gary Fritz.


MARY ANN WRIGHT
RECLAMATION BIOLOGIST

MAW/te

For accounting statistics see Kaiser Steel Memo of May 16, 1979, ACT/007/007.

cc: Murray Smith, Office of Surface Mining

October 16, 1979

Inspection Memo to Coal File:

RE: Convulsion Canyon Mine
Southern Utah Fuels Company
ACT/041/002
Sevier County, Utah

The above-mentioned operation was inspected by Mary Ann Wright, Doug Stewart and Joe Helfrich from the State Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, and Ray Lewis from the Office of Surface Mining. The inspectors and technical staff were accompanied by Kerry Frame, Chief Engineer, from SUFCO.

Ray Lewis was primarily concerned with abatement on the following violations from a previous Office of Surface Mining inspection on May 11, 1979.

- a. Failure to show evidence of a mining permit.
- b. Failure to revegetate disturbed areas and grade road cuts.
- c. No sediment pond.
- d. Dumping top rock into a drainage.

The violations were abated as follows:

- a. Evidence of a mining permit was confirmed by Ray Lewis and Kerry Frame.
- b. The disturbed areas have been revegetated by hydroseeding. Road cuts have been graded and water bars put in.
- c. Plans for a sediment pond have been submitted to the Forest Service and the Office of Surface Mining and will be submitted to the State by October 18, 1979.
- d. Dumping of top rock over the face of a fill into a drainage has ceased as of March, 1979. The top rock is presently being placed back inside the mine.

No violations were issued during this inspection.

JOSEPH C. HELFRICH
RECLAMATION OFFICER

cc: Murray Smith, O.S.M., Region V

Statistics: Vehicle # EX68804
849 Miles
3 persons @ \$100.09/person = \$300.27

JCH/te

October 16, 1979

Inspection Memo
to Coal File:

RE: Convulsion Canyon Mine
SUFCO
ACT/041/002
Sevier County, Utah

The Convulsion Canyon Mine was given a follow-up inspection on October 11, 1979 by Office of Surface Mining inspector, Ray Lewis; and Utah State Division of Oil, Gas and Mining personnel Mary Ann Wright, Joe Helfrich and Doug Stewart.

Mr. Kerry Frame, Chief Mining Engineer, discussed the notices of violations which were issued by the Office of Surface Mining on May 10, 1979.

1. CFR Sec. 717.11
Failure to have current mining permit at mining site.
Kerry showed us a letter from the regulatory authority of Utah of September 14, 1979, giving final approval.
2. CFR Sec. 717.14
Failure to grade road cuts and other surface work.
Kerry showed us, on walking tour, of area behind office, hill revegetation, road ridges and water tank site.
3. CFR Sec. 717.17
Failure to pass surface drainage from disturbed area thru sediment ponds.
Kerry showed us, on walking tour, of installed surface inlets and drainage, but 24" discharge pipe and sedimentation ponds are not complete.
4. CFR Sec. 717.15
Failure to dispose of excess earth material in approved area by regulatory authority.
Kerry said, "All excess earth material is now and will be stored in mine. This is approved by the regulatory authority."

DOUG STEWART *D*
RECLAMATION OFFICER

cc: O.S.M., Region V

Note: For statistics see Convulsion Canyon Mine memo dated October 16, 1979.

DS/te