

0019



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

INSPECTION REPORT

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Partial: XXX Complete: Exploration:
Inspection Date & Time: 6/15/98 / 9:00a.m.-4:30p.m.
Date of Last Inspection: 5/20/98

Mine Name: SUFCO Mine County: Sevier Permit Number: ACT/041/002
Permittee and/or Operator's Name: Canyon Fuel Company
Business Address: 397 South 800 West, Salina, Utah 84564
Type of Mining Activity: Underground XXX Surface Prep. Plant Other
Company Official(s): Mike Davis
State Officials(s): Peter Hess Federal Official(s): None
Weather Conditions: Cool, Partly Cloudy, 60's
Existing Acreage: Permitted-17308.25 Disturbed-67.8 Regraded-0.5 Seeded-0.5 Bonded-67.8
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.

Table with 5 columns: EVALUATED, N/A, COMMENTS, NOV/ENF. Rows list various permit conditions such as PERMITS, CHANGE, TRANSFER, RENEWAL, SALE; SIGNS AND MARKERS; TOPSOIL; HYDROLOGIC BALANCE; etc.



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(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

1. PERMITS, CHANGE, TRANSFER, RENEWAL, SALE

The sale of the Canyon Fuel Company, LLC Mines to ARCH Minerals Corporation has been completed. The revision of Chapter 1 for the SUFCO Mine is now a pending issue.

4b. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS

The cleaning of the mine site sediment pond has been completed. The material, which was stored at the temporary mine development waste storage area to dry, has since been hauled to the road side waste rock disposal site for final deposition. The P. E. recertification of this pond is pending.

9. PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES

On Monday, June 8, the permittee was operating a Caterpillar 988 front end (fifteen cubic yard bucket) to clean up extremely wet coal fines which fall on a continuous basis from a belt scraper located on the run-of-mine belt at its entrance point to the tipple building. A ten inch drain culvert had been installed in this area in approximately 1977. The culvert was used by tipple personnel (pre-SMCRA) to wash these fines into the bypass culvert which carries the flows from the left and right forks of East Spring Canyon through the mine's disturbed area to Quitchupah Creek. Upon the passage of SMCRA in August of 1977, the culvert was plugged to prevent the washing of these fines into the undisturbed channel. On 6/8/98, the operator on the 988 apparently got the bucket too deep, tearing open the pre-SMCRA ten inch CMP, and allowing a large volume of extremely wet coal fines to drain into the undisturbed drainage bypass culvert. It appears that only the drop portion of this drain structure was plugged, whereas the CMP should have been plugged in its entirety, particularly where it entered the bypass drain.

Upon entering the undisturbed bypass culvert, the volume and viscosity of the material was such that it flowed approximately 1250 feet down the dry East Spring Canyon drainage. The investigation of this incident during today's inspection revealed that the flow traveled 150 feet off the Mine's approved permit area (400 feet outside of the disturbed area).

Although this Canyon has received numerous impacts from mining (first mining conducted I believe during the early forties), N98-46-1-1 was issued on June 16, 1998 for "failure to prevent to the extent possible additional contributions of sediment to stream flow or to runoff outside the permit area".

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It should be pointed out that the permittee made an immediate and conscientious effort to inform both the Price Field Office and the DOGM SLO of this incident on June 8, 1998. Also, the ten inch CMP was re-plugged with concrete in closer proximity to the undisturbed bypass culvert. Two silt fences were installed in the lower East Spring Canyon drainage. The first fence was installed at the discharge end of the catch basin located at the discharge end of the undisturbed bypass drainage culvert. The second fence was installed at the termination of the incident flow (400 feet outside of the mine's disturbed area). The permittee then used a fire hose to wash the remaining fines in the bypass culvert to the catch basin located at its discharge end. Photographs and MRP maps were used to determine the extent of the damage.

Prior to investigating this incident, the permittee committed to cleaning the fines by manual means. The pristine nature of the bottom of this Canyon (thick vegetation and grasses) prohibits using any machinery to do this. More disturbance would be created than cleaning the material up would be worth. Shovels and buckets would be the only means acceptable to do this, and several people and days would be needed to do so.

On October 17, 1997, the permittee was issued N97-46-4-3, 2 of 3 for "failure to minimize erosion" along cut banks associated with watersheds MSH-2 and DIS-1. Both cut banks are located along the circumference of the mine site surface facilities area, MSH-2 being located behind the building designated as "covered storage" and DIS-1 located behind the shop building. Unusual amounts of rainfall generated by last years "El Nino" summer created erosion gullies along these banks. Although the permittee mitigated the gullies, stabilization of the banks was extended until June 12, 1998 to allow the permittee to have more favorable weather conditions. Approximately 65 yards of fibre crete were sprayed on the two banks utilizing "Tensar" mesh as a holding medium. The Tensar was keyed in along the tops of the banks and also pinned along the slopes in various locations to assist in the holding of the sprayed material. Both of these banks are now stable in that future erosion is not possible. N97-46-4-3, 2 of 3 was terminated on June 15, 1998.

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: Mike Davis (Canyon Fuel) Henry Austin (OSM)
Given to: Joe Helfrich (DOGM) Filed to: Price Field Office
Date: June 16, 1998

Inspector's Signature:  #46
Peter Hess