



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

## INSPECTION REPORT

Michael O. Leavitt  
Governor  
Ted Stewart  
Executive Director  
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Division Director

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(801) 538-5340  
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Partial: XXX Complete:      Exploration:       
Inspection Date & Time: 8/27&28/98 / 7:30a.m.-2:00p.m.  
Date of Last Inspection: 8/18/98

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): Allen Robins, Mike Davis, Wes Sorensen  
State Officials(s): Peter Hess Federal Official(s): None  
Weather Conditions: Partly Cloudy, Humid, 80'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

- Substantiate the elements on this inspection by checking the appropriate performance standard.
  - 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.
  - For partial inspections check only the elements evaluated.
- Document any noncompliance situation by referencing the NOV issued at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
- Reference any narratives written in conjunction with this inspection at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
- Provide a brief status report for all pending enforcement actions, permit conditions, Division Orders, and amendments.

	EVALUATED	N/A	COMMENTS	NOV/ENF
1. PERMITS, CHANGE, TRANSFER, RENEWAL, SALE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. SIGNS AND MARKERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. TOPSOIL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE:				
a. DIVERSIONS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. OTHER SEDIMENT CONTROL MEASURES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. WATER MONITORING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. EXPLOSIVES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. DISPOSAL OF EXCESS SPOIL/FILLS/BENCHES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. COAL MINE WASTE/REFUSE PILES/IMPOUNDMENTS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. NONCOAL WASTE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. SLIDES AND OTHER DAMAGE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. CONTEMPORANEOUS RECLAMATION	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. BACKFILLING AND GRADING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. REVEGETATION	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. SUBSIDENCE CONTROL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. CESSATION OF OPERATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. ROADS:				
a. CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/SURFACING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. DRAINAGE CONTROLS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. SUPPORT FACILITIES/UTILITY INSTALLATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. AVS CHECK (4th Quarter-April, May, June)_____ (date)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. AIR QUALITY PERMIT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21. BONDING & INSURANCE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



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(Continuation sheet)

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(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

9. PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES

On August 27, 1998 at 2:35 p.m., I received a telephone call from Mr. Ted Fitzgerald of the U. S. Forest Service, Fishlake National Forest, indicating that the SUFCO Mine was experiencing a problem with the septic system and leach field. According to Mr. Fitzgerald, (who had received the report from a subordinate), raw sewage was flowing up through the ground of the leach field and running down the Forest Service road in Quitchupah Canyon. The report also indicated that it appeared to have been running like this, undetected for several weeks. Mr. Fitzgerald also indicated that USFS law enforcement officials were on top of the problems, and that a \$200 fine would more than likely be levied to the Company.

At 2:40 p.m., I called the SUFCO Mine and talked to Gary Lemming, Safety Director. He informed me that Mike Davis and Wes Sorensen were not on site and that Mr. Ken May, General Manager for SUFCO was in Park City attending meetings. At this point, I informed Mr. Lemming that I was issuing the Mine a verbal "cease operations" order, relative to the septic system. All operations which add inflow to the septic system (toilets, showers, wash down, etc.) were to be shut down until the problem with the septic system/leach field could be determined and repaired. I called SUFCO again at 3:10 p.m. to inquire as to whether the septic system had been removed from service; shutdown of the system was performed at 2:45 p. m., as confirmed by Mr. Lemming.

At this point, I informed the DOGM-SLO of the situation at SUFCO, speaking with Mr. John Baza, Associate Director for Oil and Gas. Mr. Baza was acting Director this day.

At 3:12 p.m., Mr. Henry Austin, Reclamation Specialist with OSMRE in Denver was informed of the situation at SUFCO and the action which had been taken.

At approximately 3:30 p.m., Mr. Ken May, General Manager of SUFCO called the PFO and the situation was discussed. Mr. May sounded to be in agreement with all actions which had been taken by me up to this point. I don't believe either of us knew the actual conditions at the site at this time, as I had based all of my actions up to this point on the report of Mr. Fitzgerald. I informed Mr. May that I would not be able to travel to the site until the next day.

On August 28, I traveled to the SUFCO Mine to assess the situation. I arrived at 9:15 a.m., and spoke with Mr. Allen Robins, Maintenance Manager. Mr. Robins explained that Mike Davis and Wes Sorensen were at the USFS in Richfield discussing the situation. Also, according to what the septic tank maintenance man had told him, the tank had only been pumped out three times in the 15 years that the tank had been in operation.

At this point, Mr. Robins inquired as to what my expectations were to have the cease operations order lifted on the Mine's septic system. I informed Mr. Robins that I would terminate the CO when the septic system had been repaired and could function as designed.

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Over by the Mine's main substation, SUFCO's survey team had located the septic tank portholes on the previous day, and a "honey dipper" was making repairs to the pumping system to suck material from the tank. Mr. Robins indicated that the material in the tank was too thick, and that the pumping system was having an extremely difficult time. Mr. Robins requested that I allow SUFCO permission to turn on water to the septic tank (there was no danger of any material running down the area below the leach field in Quitchupah Creek) in order to reduce the material to a pumpable consistency. The "go ahead" was given.

Mr. Robins and I then traveled to lower Quitchupah Canyon to inspect the environmental damage. When we arrived at the leach field, two workers were cleaning the tank located at the junction of the leach out pipes. Mr. Robins asked the two men if any noticeable problems had been encountered. It was indicated that it had not been possible to run a flushing hose down any of the leach out pipes.

We then walked over to look at the environmental damage. An area approximately ten feet by ten feet was blackened where the sewage had bubbled up through the ground. This area was located on the SE corner outside of the leach field fence, but inside of the disturbed area perimeter. The permittee was instructed to clean up this material. Upon returning to the upper pad where the mine facilities are located, Mike Davis and Wes Sorensen were encountered. They appeared to be somewhat frustrated by the amount of concern over this amount of environmental damage. Based on the minimum amount of impact, and the fact that no environmental damage could be verified outside of the disturbed areas perimeter on the USFS road, the CO was terminated at approximately 10:20 a.m.

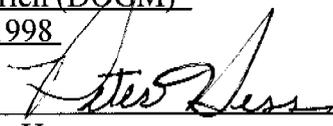
On Monday, August 31, 1998, Mike Davis was contacted at the site. The septic tank clean out has been completed. This 10,000 gallon tank is being refilled through the bath house shower system. Mr. Davis intends to check the leach field every day this week to see if any problems reoccur. He has speculated that the leach out effluent has encountered a rodent hole, coursing the material to the surface.

A follow up of the incident will be made to determine if the real cause can be made known.

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: August 31, 1998

Inspector's Signature:  #46  
Peter Hess