



OIL, GAS & MINING

Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program PROJECT SUMMARY

PRICE RIVER COAL PILE PROJECT Carbon County, Utah

AMR/007/907

Project Location and Background

The Price River Coal Pile Project, located two miles north of the town of Helper, Utah, addressed a large coal refuse pile that was on the floodplain of the Price River in lower Price Canyon. The pile was burning in places and periodically sloughed coal into the Price River. Sloughage during the high runoff in 1983 led to several complaints from downstream irrigators of coal fines in their fields.

The Price River Coal Pile covered seven acres to depths exceeding 80 feet; 1400 feet of river bank were directly affected. The pile contained an estimated 380,000 cy of coal.

The AMRP explored more than twenty different reclamation options and disposal sites over several years of planning. Construction was carried out in three phases from 1987-1991. Reclamation included coal refuse excavation and transport to disposal sites, site regrading, streambank stabilization with juniper tree revetments, and revegetation. Poles for a 46 kv electrical transmission line from the nearby PacifiCorp Carbon plant that had been sunk in the coal had to be repositioned when the coal was removed.



Land Owner: Private
General Contractors:
PRCP1 – Siaperas Construction
PRCP2 – Ned B. Mitchell Inc.
PRCP3 – Ned B. Mitchell Inc.

AMRP Project Managers:
PRCP1 – Louis Amodt
PRCP2 – Chris Rohrer
PRCP3 – Chris Rohrer

AMLIS Key: UT000063

Funding: OSM Grant

The AMRP in the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, Utah Department of Natural Resources was created in 1983 to address physical safety hazards associated with abandoned mines as authorized by the Surface Mining Reclamation and Control Act (SMCRA) of 1977. The Program is funded by The Utah Coal Producers who pay an abandoned mine reclamation fee to the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) on each ton of coal mined in Utah.



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Price River Coal Pile Project, Construction Summary

Reclamation was accomplished in three phases and construction contracts:

Phase 1. Trucking 95,172 tons (approx. 106,000 cy) of coal to the permitted coarse refuse disposal site at the active Cyprus Plateau Star Point mine at Wattis.

Phase 2. Trucking approx. 245,000 cy of coal to the "AEP Pit" disposal site in Willow Creek Canyon. The contract for this phase also included disposal of 195,000 cy coal refuse from the Lower Willow Creek Project.

Phase 3. Final site grading, onsite burial of 14,500 cy residual coal refuse, installing juniper tree revetments on the river bank, and revegetation (including cottonwood tree planting). The contract for this phase also included disposal of 22,000 cy coal refuse, final site grading, and revegetation at the Upper Willow Creek Project and final site grading and revegetation at the Lower Willow Creek Project.

Following completion of the AMRP's reclamation work for these projects in Price Canyon and Willow Creek Canyon, the "AEP Pit" disposal site was developed as a mine entry for the Plateau Mining Corp's Willow Creek mine. All of the coal at the "AEP Pit site" was moved to the Barn Canyon refuse disposal site by PMC.

Cost accounting for this project is complicated by the fact that it spanned three separate construction contracts that also included cleanup of several other coal refuse piles in other projects and included reclamation of the disposal site.

| Phase | Start | End | Bid Amt | Final Amt | #COs | Comment |
|-------|---------|----------|-----------|-------------|------|---------------------------|
| 1 | 10/8/87 | 12/18/87 | \$358,000 | \$358,215 | 3 | |
| 2 | 9/18/89 | 6/11/90 | \$586,325 | \$1,004,135 | 6 | Includes LWC work |
| 3 | 9/14/90 | 6/30/91 | \$105,660 | \$328,355 | 6 | Includes LWC and UWC work |



Accomplishments
365,000 cy coal removed
and disposed

7 acres of floodplain
restored

1400 ft river bank
stabilized

Total Contract Cost:
\$1,690,705
PRCP portion: ~\$1,007,485

