



OIL, GAS & MINING

Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Location and Background

The Wattis Mine Fire Abandoned Coal Mine Project was conducted in September, 2013. The mine site is located near Wattis, Utah in very steep terrain with no road access. The Wattis No. 1 mine operated from 1917 to 1964 and the town of Wattis is presently a ghost town.

Although other mining has occurred in this area more recently, conducted by the Cyprus Plateau mining company at the Star Point Nos. 1 and 2 mines, the mined area involved in the fire is the Wattis No. 1 mine which was abandoned in 1964.

Public Involvement and Partnerships

During the National Environmental Policy Act compliance process, state and local government agencies were notified through the Governor's Resource Development Coordination Committee and the Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments. Carbon County fire officials were consulted and the Utah Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program obtained consent from the landowners involved in the project area and its access routes. OSM published a notice in the Sun Advocate newspaper in Price when the FONSI was signed.

WATTIS MINE FIRE CARBON County, Utah

AMR/007/943



Above: Fan Portal Below: Reclaimed Fan Portal



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.

Owner:

USDA Forest Service

Egress:

Carbon County, Plateau Mining Corporation, Pettiti LLC

General Contractor:

Yerba Buena Engineering and Construction

AMRP Project Manager: Louis A Amoldt



OIL, GAS & MINING

Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program PROJECT SUMMARY

Project, 2013 -- Construction Summary

The Wattis Coal Mine Fire Project attempted to extinguish fire burning in two adjacent portals of the abandoned Wattis Mine that were ignited by the Seeley wildfire in July, 2012. The Wattis mine is located in the Manti-La Sal National Forest about 13 miles west of Price, Carbon County, Utah. The project was conducted under the mandate of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA).

The project placed one portable, collapsible water tank near the radio towers at the peak and an additional three portable, collapsible water tanks by hand labor on the ridge above the fire. The water tanks were filled with water or FEM-12 fire suppressant by water hoses stretching 3,600 feet from water trucks at the staging area near the radio towers at Star Point to the water tanks. Another 650 feet of hose was laid from the water tank on the ridge to the burning portals. A Menzi Muck A91 "Spider" excavator traversed the cross-country access route to the portals and excavated the fire to expose it to the FEM-12 fire-suppressant agent sprayed from the water hose.

Monitoring and Maintenance

Site will require inspection on the spring of 2014 to seal any cracks which may have opened up during the winter.

Change Orders

No modifications were made to the Contract.

Photos: Excavation of burning coal seam



Wattis Mine Fire Project:
AMLIS KEY: 3 adit closures
Completed: October 28, 2013
Construction Cost: \$250,137.23