



OIL, GAS & MINING

# **Board of Oil, Gas and Mining**

## **Coal Program Update- September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021**

# Coal Program Background

Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act  
(SMCRA) Passed 1977

State of Utah Coal Program

Utah received primacy for regulation of  
coal mining and reclamation under  
SMCRA in 1981.

Utah R645 Rules developed



# Coal Program Staffing

-9 Full Time Employees

2 Hydrologists

2 Field Inspectors

1 Engineer/Bonding

1 Soil Scientist

1 Biologist

1 Administrative

1 Manager.

-Deputy Director



# Utah Coal Permits: 28 Inspectable Units

16 Active Operations

8 Inactive Operations

4 Bond Forfeiture Sites

2,576 Acres Bonded For  
Reclamation

Bond Total of \$66,049,142.



# COAL PRODUCED (Millions of Short Tons)

Calendar Year	Surface Mines	Underground Mines	Total
2017	0.7	13.7	14.6
2018	0.5	13.8	14.3
2019	0.2	13.7	13.9
2020	0.6	12.7	13.5



# **REMOTE WORK: COVID-19**

Mid March 2020, Staff Began Working  
From Home

Electronic Permitting Saved The Day

Minimal Disruption of Normal Workflow  
Process



# **REMOTE WORK: CURRENTLY IN COAL PROGRAM**

Utah Works and DNR Telework Policy

5 Staff Members in Utah Works Plan

2 Staff Members in DNR Telework Plan

1 Back to Office Full-time



# Questions

Steve Christensen, Coal Program Manager

[stevechristensen@utah.gov](mailto:stevechristensen@utah.gov)

(801) 538-5350 w

(385) 290-9927 c

