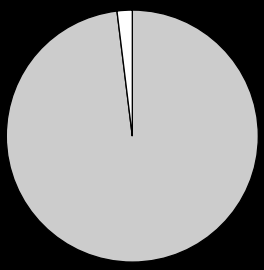
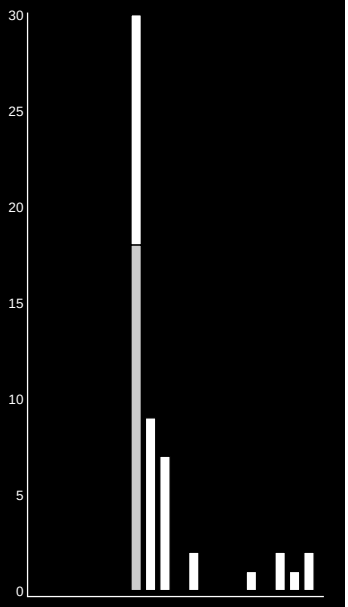
UtaH



Production tonnage 1978-1997

U.S. Total

Utah Coal Production



Number of new permits 1978-1997

Interim Program

Permanent Program

99 percent of 20-year production from underground mines

While coal occurs beneath about 18 percent of Utah, only 4 percent of the state has mineable reserves. Utah's coal fields are mostly bituminous.

Commercial production of Utah coal began around 1870, and many of these early underground mines underlie rural areas of the state. Current coal production in Utah is almost entirely by underground mining, making Utah unique among the coal-producing states. Most coal seams are more than 8 feet thick. Utah's coal resources are about 6.3 billion tons, 1.3 percent of the national reserve. Most of Utah's coal resources are held by the Federal Government and Indian tribes and are mined under lease.

Utah gained primacy when its regulatory program was conditionally approved January 21, 1981. Full program approval was obtained March 7, 1983. The Abandoned Mine Land Program was approved June 3, 1983. A Federal Lands Cooperative Agreement was signed in March 1987; Utah performs all enforcement and permitting activities on federal lands.

Mining for minerals other than coal has been important throughout Utah's history, and today many abandoned mineral mines exist throughout the state where they pose substantial hazards to residents and recreationists.

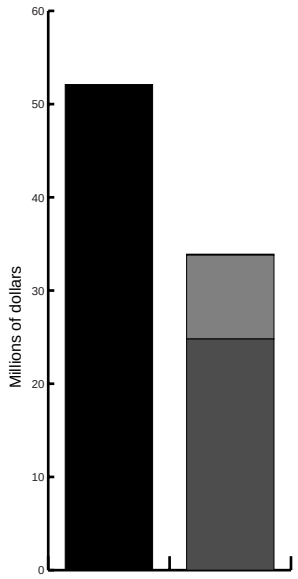
Abandoned Mine Land emergencies in Utah are the responsibility of the Office of Surface Mining. There have not been any emergency projects in Utah.

Since the Utah Abandoned Mine Land Program was approved, the state has spent approximately $7.5 million on high-priority projects (closure of portals and vertical openings, reclamation of dangerous waste piles, and subsidence stabilization) and approximately $2.6 million to eliminate non-coal hazards. Utah has also spent approximately $1.6 million to eliminate environmental or Priority 3 coal-related hazards (reclamation of gob piles, spoil, and bench areas).

Abandoned Mine Land hazards remaining in Utah include $33 million of high-priority projects (mostly underground and surface mine fires and subsidence), $11,000 of environmental coal-related hazards, and $8 million of high-priority non-coal projects.

coal production[10]

	1978		1997		
	Amount	Percent U.S. Total	Amount	Percent U.S. Total	1978-1997 Rank
Tons Produced					
Surface	0	0%	46,795	0.008%	26
Underground	5,213,612	3.4%	28,494,499	6.7%	6
Lignite	0	0%	0	0%	0
Total	5,213,612	1.2%	28,541,295	2.6%	15
Number of Producing Mines					
Surface (bituminous coal)	0	0%	2	0.08%	24
Underground	27	1.0%	16	0.9%	8
Lignite (surface)	0	0%	0	0%	0
Total	27	0.4%	18	0.4%	14
Mine Production					
Average	193,096	271.7%	1,585,627	602.5%	
>1,000,000 tons	1	2.0%	9	4.3%	
300,000-1,000,000 tons	4	1.9%	2	0.05%	
<300,000 tons	22	0.3%	7	0.1%	



Amount paid into the AML Fund[11] $ 52,161,574

Amount received for reclamation[12] $ 24,882,487

State share balance in the Fund[13] $ 9,035,618

Federal abandoned mine projects[14] $ 123,791

RAMP abandoned mine projects[15] $ 0

Active mining and reclamation[16]

	1978	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	Total
Number of New Permits																					
Surface Mining	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Underground Mining	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	9	5	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	32
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	7
Acreage Permitted																					
Surface Mining	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25
Underground Mining	0	2,287	7	0	34	0	643	70	645	0	5,356	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	142	9,284
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	579	0	0	0	0	137	0	0	0	0	0	33	0	0	749
Acreage of Bond Release																					
Interim Prog. (final)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Phase 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	40	7	0	0	7	0	0	280	50	0	71	463
Phase 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	30	10	0	85
Phase 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	4
Inspections																					
Complete	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	96	99	126	142	127	129	135	136	143	137	130	133	119	87	120	1,859
Partial	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	301	217	227	231	156	212	223	246	220	214	240	252	241	167	186	3,333
Oversight	0	0	NA	NA	NA	46	31	25	NA	31	27	19	20	35	19	18	17	27	2	9	326
Citations Issued																					
NOV's	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	80	62	80	92	31	66	58	44	61	71	73	78	47	18	46	907
CO's	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	8	8	12	16	1	2	10	1	10	5	5	3	4	1	2	88

Abandoned coal mine reclamation 1977-1997[17]

	Reclaimed Problems			Remaining Problems	
	OSM Emergency	State Emergency	Non-Emergency	Number	Estimated Cost
Priority 1 & 2 (Protection of Public Health, Safety, and General Welfare) and Emergency Projects					
Clogged Streams (miles)	0	0	13.6	0.7	$ 20,000
Clogged Stream Lands (acres)	0	0	15.0	10.0	271,000
Highwalls (feet)	0	0	2,925.0	5,300.0	990,000
Impoundments (count)	0	0	1.0	1.0	160,000
Piles & Embankments (acres)	0	0	131.5	13.7	230,000
Slides (acres)	0	0	0	0	0
Gases (count)	0	0	19.0	13.0	86,000
Equipment & Facilities (count)	0	0	151.0	21.0	178,500
Water Bodies (count)	0	0	0	0	0
Industrial Waste (acres)	0	0	2.0	5.0	22,000
Portals (count)	0	0	1,601.0	580.0	2,263,356
Polluted Water: Agriculture & Industrial (count)	0	0	2.0	1.0	50,000
Polluted Water: Human Consumption (count)	0	0	0	0	0
Subsidence (acres)	0	0	92.0	223.0	3,265,000
Surface Burning (acres)	0	0	45.8	6.0	150,000
Underground Mine Fires (acres)	0	0	39.0	336.0	25,330,100
Vertical Openings (count)	0	0	639.0	204.0	963,433
Total					$ 33,979,389
Priority 3 (Environmental Restoration)					
Bench (acres)	0	0	4.0	8.0	$ 12,500
Industrial Waste (acres)	0	0	7.0	0	0
Equipment & Facilities (count)	0	0	64.0	14.0	19,300
Gob (acres)	0	0	260.0	61.0	218,500
Highwall (feet)	0	0	550.0	0	0
Haul Road (acres)	0	0	3.0	0.5	5,000
Mine Opening (count)	0	0	0	0	0
Pit (acres)	0	0	8.0	3.0	900
Spoil Area (acres)	0	0	55.0	28.3	174,034
Slurry (acres)	0	0	1.0	0	0
Slump (acres)	0	0	16.0	7.0	16,000
Water (gallons/minute)	0	0	20.3	1.5	4,500
Total					$ 450,734