COAL TRANSPORTATION IN UTAH

SHIPPING COAL BY RAIL MEANS SHIPPING COAL BY ROAD IN UTAH

WHY IS COAL IMPORTANT?

Although we may not realize it, coal in Utah is critical to our quality of life, providing most of the electrical power that we consume on a daily basis. In 2009, 82 percent of Utah’s electric power generation came from coal. Coal is also an integral part of Utah’s economy. The industry employed approximately 1,954 individuals in 2009, providing income and important tax dollars for the state. In 2009, the value of extracted coal was approximately $623 million. Current coal production is primarily located in three counties in central Utah: Emery, Carbon and Sevier.

CURRENT HAUL ROUTES

Nearly every coal mine in Utah relies on trucks to transport its coal to five rail loadout facilities – intermodal hubs where coal from mines is loaded from trucks onto trains. Primary coal-haul routes are those linking the mines to the railroad loadouts, which experience very high coal truck volumes exceeding 100 trucks per day. The majority of coal leaving Utah is transported by rail. Secondary routes are those used less frequently for direct delivery of coal to power plants and industrial locations within Utah. In total, approximately 1,300 coal-haul truck trips are made each day on state and local roads throughout Utah. Coal trucks are extremely heavy and present significant maintenance issues on the roadways they use.

Where is Utah coal sent?

- 65% stays in Utah
- 35% is sent outside of Utah (18 other states)

How is Utah coal consumed?

- 88.1% consumed by electric utilities
- 11.7% consumed by industrial users
- 0.2% consumed by residential and commercial users

Base data and information source: Annual Review and Forecast of Utah Coal Production and Distribution - 2010 (Utah Department of Natural Resources) and from the Energy Information Administration website www.eia.doe.gov
FUTURE HAUL ROUTES

Coal resources in the Alton coal field (shown on map below) are being considered for extraction. Mining these resources would impact transportation routes and nearby communities, adding traffic to highways that serve major tourist destinations such as Bryce Canyon National Park. Additional passing lanes, wider shoulders, and other safety measures could be needed.

HOW COAL IS TRANSPORTED

• In 2009, Utah's coal production was 21.9 million tons (13th nationally)
• 81 percent left the mine by truck (17.7 million tons)
• Only one Utah mine delivers coal directly to a power plant (2 million tons)
• Only one Utah mine has direct access to a railroad (less than 2 million tons)

Coal Mining Activity Keeps Utah's Roads Busy