



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

JK AG 21

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INSPECTION REPORT

Partial: X Complete: Exploration:
Inspection Date & Time: July 15, 1993, 7:30 A.M to 12:30 P.M.
Date of Last Inspection: June 23, 1993

Mine Name: Castle Gate County: Carbon Permit Number: ACT/007/004
Permittee and/or Operator's Name: AMAX Coal West
Business Address: 165 S. Union Blvd, Ste. 1000, P. O. Box 280219, Lakewood, CO 80228-0219
Type of Mining Activity: Underground X Surface Prep. Plant Other
State Official(s): Paul Baker
Company Official(s): Richard Allison
Federal Official(s): None
Weather Conditions: Clear, 60-70's
Existing Acreage. Permitted- 7619 Disturbed- 170 Regraded- 6.5 Seeded- 6.5 Bonded- 134.5
Increased/Decreased: Permitted- 0 Disturbed- 0 Regraded- 0 Seeded- 0 Bonded- 0
Status: Exploration/ Active/ Inactive/ Temporary Cessation/ Bond Forfeiture
Reclamation (X Phase I/ Phase II/ Final Bond Release/ 9 for Goose Island Liability Year)

REVIEW OF PERMIT, PERFORMANCE STANDARDS & PERMIT CONDITION REQUIREMENTS

Instructions

1. Substantiate the elements on this inspection by checking the appropriate performance standard.
 - a. For complete inspections provide narrative justification for any elements not fully inspected unless element is not appropriate to the site, in which case check N/A.
 - b. For partial inspections check only the elements evaluated.
2. Document any noncompliance situation by referencing the NOV issued at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
3. Reference any narratives written in conjunction with this inspection at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
4. Provide a brief status report for all pending enforcement actions, permit conditions, Division Orders, and amendments.

| | EVALUATED | N/A | COMMENTS | NOV/ENF |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. PERMITS, CHANGE, TRANSFER, RENEWAL, SALE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. SIGNS AND MARKERS | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. TOPSOIL | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE: | | | | |
| a. DIVERSIONS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. OTHER SEDIMENT CONTROL MEASURES | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. WATER MONITORING | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. EXPLOSIVES | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. DISPOSAL OF EXCESS SPOIL/FILLS/BENCHES | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. COAL MINE WASTE/REFUSE PILES/IMPOUNDMENTS | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. NONCOAL WASTE | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. SLIDES AND OTHER DAMAGE | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11. CONTEMPORANEOUS RECLAMATION | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12. BACKFILLING AND GRADING | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13. REVEGETATION | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 14. SUBSIDENCE CONTROL | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 15. CESSATION OF OPERATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 16. ROADS: | | | | |
| a. CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/SURFACING | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. DRAINAGE CONTROLS | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 17. OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 18. SUPPORT FACILITIES/UTILITY INSTALLATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 19. AVS CHECK (4th Quarter-April, May, June)_ (date) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 20. AIR QUALITY PERMIT | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 21. BONDING & INSURANCE | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

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PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/004

DATE OF INSPECTION: July 15, 1993

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

1. Permits, Change, Transfer, Renewal, Sale

On July 1, 1993, the abatement date for N92-39-7-1 was extended to August 2, 1993. AMAX has since submitted a letter from the contractor performing the abatement work indicating that additional time is necessary to make the riprap needed for the channel. It did not appear that additional excavation work had been done on the channel since the June 21 inspection. Several, I believe six, loads of fine material had been stockpiled at the preparation plant, but Mr. Allison stated that he did not believe that this material would meet the design specifications for the project and that it would need to be removed.

The Division and AMAX are continuing to work to resolve the December 18, 1990, Division Order.

During the inspection, Mr. Allison and I met with David Donnelly and Chris Rohrer of the Division's Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation program to discuss access to some abandoned coal waste areas along the Price River near the preparation plant. AML hopes to be able to haul riprap from a site north of the preparation plant along the road through the plant and across the railroad tracks near the main entrance. We discussed with them the concerns of maintaining drainage control and of potential damage to the road. AML also hopes to seal a portal in Hardscrabble Canyon near the No. 3 Mine portal.

4. Hydrologic Balance

a. Diversions

As discussed in the previous inspection report, straw bales have been placed in the main channel of Hardscrabble Canyon just below where reclamation channels HCRD-9 and HCRD-11 meet.

Some of the rock that is intended to be used for riprap in the No. 4 Mine canyon has been stockpiled below this canyon. The angularity of this material was questioned, but, after showing photographs of the rock to a Division hydrologist and engineer, the more important question is probably the gradation and size of the material. I measured several of the stones and found them to be smaller than the d_{50} indicated in the plan. Mr. Allison had not yet received a report indicating the material gradation and had therefore not yet accepted it for use in the channel.

c. Other Sediment Control Measures

Near the entrance to the preparation plant, there is a small area where drainage from the disturbed area passes through a silt fence and a straw bale. The silt fence is down, and the straw bale has deteriorated somewhat. The straw bale is still functioning, but it would not function properly with very much flow. It needs to be replaced before the next inspection.

During the inspection, a crew from Pacific Corp. was performing some maintenance and repairs on utility lines within the disturbed area boundary. The berm separating the disturbed area from the Price River buffer zone had been breached in two locations by these crews. No water was leaving the site because of these breaches, and there appeared to be little chance of anything creating runoff from the disturbed area during the day. Mr. Allison stated that he had not been informed that this work was going to be done. Clyde Atwood of Pacific Corp. stated that the work would be completed later that day. Mr. Allison emphasized to Mr. Atwood that the berms needed to be rebuilt as soon as the crew was finished.

12. Backfilling and Grading

Grading work is continuing in the canyon containing the No. 4 Mine. The highwall and cut slopes are not to be entirely eliminated in this canyon, and this is according to the mining and reclamation plan. Much of the grading has been completed, and Mr. Allison stated that excavation of the channel should begin soon.

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13. Revegetation

It appears that some of the herbicide applications to control dyer's woad in Hardscrabble Canyon were effective but some were probably not. Some of the plants developed tan-colored seeds, and some of the seeds appeared to be normal (black). A sample was taken of both kinds of seeds to test for viability at the seed lab.

There is a limited amount of musk thistle in Hardscrabble Canyon that could be controlled in a few minutes with a shovel. Carbon County Weed Control did some work in Crandall Canyon earlier this year, but some follow-up work should be done to control the musk thistle there. It is just beginning to flower, so an application of a broadleaf herbicide should still work.

I used the Erosion Condition Classification system on three areas on and adjacent to Goose Island. One was a site evaluated by Mickey Steward and me last fall, one was a relatively flat area with a smaller amount of vegetative cover than most of the rest of the area, and one was an undisturbed slope just above the disturbed area. Values obtained were 56 for the area evaluated last fall, 42 for the flat area, and 40 for the undisturbed area. Ms. Steward and I had obtained values of 57 and 54 on the area that we evaluated last fall.

Previous inspection reports have discussed some rills that have formed at Goose Island. Although these have not been growing (because of no recent precipitation), they are of concern and need to be examined to determine what, if anything, needs to be done to correct them. Goose Island is in the ninth year of the extended liability period.

Copy of this Report:

Mailed to: Richard Allison (AMAX), Marcia Petta (OSM)

Given to: Joe Helfrich, Daron Haddock (DOGM)

Inspector's Signature: 

Paul B. Baker #41

Date: July 19, 1993