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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

APR 74
gph

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INSPECTION REPORT

Partial: X Complete: Exploration:
Inspection Date & Time: April 21, 1993, 9:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.
Date of Last Inspection: March 18, 1993

Mine Name: Castle Gate County: Carbon Permit Number: ACT/007/004

Permittee and/or Operator's Name: AMAX Coal Co.

Business Address: 2273 Bishop Rd., P. O. Box 3005, Gillette, WY 82717-3005

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: Partly Cloudy, 60's, snow almost entirely gone

Existing Acreage: Permitted- 8510 Disturbed- 134.5 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/ X Temporary Cessation/ Bond Forfeiture

Reclamation (Phase I/ Phase II/ Final Bond Release/ Liability Year)

REVIEW OF PERMIT, PERFORMANCE STANDARDS & PERMIT CONDITION REQUIREMENTS

Instructions

- Substantiate the elements on this inspection by checking the appropriate performance standard.
 - 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.
 - For partial inspections check only the elements evaluated.
- Document any noncompliance situation by referencing the NOV issued at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
- Reference any narratives written in conjunction with this inspection at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
- 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE:				
a. DIVERSIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. OTHER SEDIMENT CONTROL MEASURES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" 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: April 21, 1993

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

The inspection concentrated on the Crandall Canyon area although we spent some time in Hardscrabble Canyon looking for noxious weeds and a few minutes in the preparation plant area. The No. 5 Mine in Sowbelly Gulch is still inaccessible because of some snow slides up to about 10 feet high that are blocking the road. The snow is gone from most other areas.

1. Permits, Change, Transfer, Renewal, Sale

On April 9, 1993, the Division sent a letter to AMAX stating that there are a few issues that need to be resolved with Division Order 92-A. It also stated that, rather than reconstructing the ponds, AMAX might commit to reclamation of the mine in the near future and provide a detailed storm probability analysis which would demonstrate that there is little or no risk of damaging the water quality by allowing the ponds to remain in their present configuration for a short time.

Abatement of N92-39-7-1 is due June 30, 1993.

The Division and AMAX are continuing to work to resolve the December 18, 1990, Division Order. A review of the plan for the Crandall Canyon area was sent on April 15, 1993, and a response should be submitted by May 17, 1993. The latest revision of Chapter IX was received April 19, 1993. New submittals intended to satisfy deficiencies in the plans for the preparation plant, Gravel Canyon, and Adit No. 1 were received April 14, 1993.

On April 19, 1993, the Division received correspondence from AMAX giving a reclamation schedule for various areas of the mine. Unless buyers are found for some of the property, final reclamation should be completed by 1996.

4. Hydrologic Balance

b. Sediment Ponds and Impoundments

On the southwest side of pond 12A, there is a hole that leads into what appears to be an old building foundation. Most of this void area is underneath the road. It was impossible to tell exactly how large the space was. The hole leading into the apparent foundation was above the present pond water level. This hole may need to be filled; it will be checked again at the next inspection.

The annual pond inspection performed by a professional engineer stated that the sediment level in pond 14 was 0.4 feet below the maximum sediment level. During the inspection, the water level in the pond was measured at approximately 2.0 feet below the emergency spillway which would be about 0.3 feet below the primary spillway. This pond needs to be decanted and the sediment cleaned out. Prior to decanting, water samples need to be taken to be sure that the water meets UPDES requirements.

13. Revegetation

As part of the inspection, Mr. Allison and I met with Mike Johnson of Carbon County Weed Control to discuss noxious weed control efforts that will be needed this spring. We also looked for and marked locations where these weeds were found. Weather permitting, spraying operations are expected to begin on May 3. This should be close to ideal timing.

Dyer's woad is still present in Hardscrabble Canyon. Although the canyon containing the No. 4 Mine will be graded and revegetated this year, hopefully in late spring or early summer, it was decided that the weeds in this area should be sprayed to decrease the chances of them being in the revegetated area or of seeds going into undisturbed areas.

The topsoil pile at the entrance to Crandall Canyon has a substantial population of whitetop, and we found and marked a place on the road cut that has a lot of whitetop.

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The population of musk thistle in the Crandall Canyon pad area appears to have been reduced somewhat from last year, but it still needs to be treated again.

We walked along the road leading to the leach field. This road was hydroseeded and hydromulched last fall. We saw a lot of seeds on top of the mulch, and it is possible that the seed and mulch were applied in one operation which should not have been done. This would be impossible to prove. We saw quite a few seedlings emerging, and with normal precipitation, there should be a good stand of grasses by the end of the summer.

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: April 26, 1993