



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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INSPECTION REPORT

Partial: Complete: X Exploration:
Inspection Date & Time: November 11, 1994, 7:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
Date of Last Inspection: October 17, 1994

Mine Name: Castle Gate County: Carbon Permit Number: ACT/007/004
Permittee and/or Operator's Name: AMAX Coal Co.
Business Address: P. O. Box 449, Helper, Utah
Type of Mining Activity: Underground X Surface Prep. Plant X Other
State Official(s): Paul Baker
Company Official(s): Lonnie Mills
Federal Official(s): None
Weather Conditions: Partly Cloudy, 40's
Existing Acreage: Permitted- 7619 Disturbed- 170 Regraded- 13.2 Seeded- 13.2 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/ 10 for Goose Island 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. TOPSOIL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. EXPLOSIVES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. DISPOSAL OF EXCESS SPOIL/FILLS/BENCHES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. COAL MINE WASTE/REFUSE PILES/IMPOUNDMENTS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. NONCOAL WASTE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. SLIDES AND OTHER DAMAGE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. CONTEMPORANEOUS RECLAMATION	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. CESSATION OF OPERATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. ROADS:				
a. CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/SURFACING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. DRAINAGE CONTROLS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. SUPPORT FACILITIES/UTILITY INSTALLATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. AVS CHECK (4th Quarter-April, May, June)_(date)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. AIR QUALITY PERMIT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21. BONDING & INSURANCE	<input checked="" 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: November 11, 1994

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

1. Permits, Change, Transfer, Renewal, Sale

On November 2, 1994, several Division staff members visited Sowbelly Gulch for the purpose of assessing the reclamation for Phase I bond release. A formal bond release inspection will need to be done later. Some of the problems found include an exposed portion of the fan portal, riprap gradation, and a transition section of riprap at the junction of SBRD-1A and SBRD-8.

2. Signs and Markers

Mr. Mills told me the new signs were on order, and on November 15, 1994, Mel Coonrod told me the signs had been received and were being installed.

The Adit No. 1 and Gravel Canyon areas need additional disturbed area markers.

3. Topsoil

In Crandall Canyon, we found two side canyons where it looked like some soil or spoil had been placed. There are no markers indicating it is topsoil, but it appears to be recent disturbance because of the presence of elderberries and small conifer trees. Even if it is not topsoil, it may be of good enough quality that it could be used for substitute topsoil. One of the areas appears to be within the disturbed area boundary but one is not. The permittee and the Division need to further evaluate whether the material in these areas should be used for substitute topsoil.

4. Hydrologic Balance

a. Diversions

As discussed above, additional work needs to be done on the riprap at the junction of SBRD-1A and SBRD-8. The work has started, but it is not complete.

c. Other Sediment Control Measures

The report for the October inspection discussed an area in Sowbelly Gulch that either needed to be roughened more or to have a sediment control device installed. A silt fence was installed along the drainage.

12. Backfilling and Grading

The fan portal in Sowbelly Gulch had not been completely covered when the Division did the technical visit for Phase I bond release on November 2. It had been covered by the time of this inspection. Mel Coonrod said his company exposed the portal, and they were able to see the gravel that was blown into the portal in about 1991. Because of the gravel, they could not see any other seal, such as concrete blocks. They then covered the portal with about three feet of spoil.

The adequacy of three feet of material over solid concrete is questionable. The Division would normally require either four feet of cover or a demonstration that vegetation could be established with less than four feet. This issue will be analyzed in Phase I bond release memoranda.

13. Revegetation

The entire Sowbelly Gulch area, including areas seeded last year, has been seeded again. The area seeded last year had limited establishment, so I was happy to see it seeded again. The area around SBRD- 1 was seeded with a riparian area seed mixture as designated in the plan. A seed label obtained from the seeding contractor indicates that the correct species and proportions of seed were in this mix. The remainder of the area was seeded with three lots of seed. These three lots include the same lot of seed as was used in 1993, a new seed lot, and a supplemental lot that includes Basin wild rye and blueleaf aster.

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PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/004

DATE OF INSPECTION: November 11, 1994

The seed lot used last year included intermediate wheatgrass but did not contain Basin wild rye. Also, the pure live seed proportion of blueleaf aster was low. It is for these reasons that the supplemental seed mixture was included with the lot from last year.

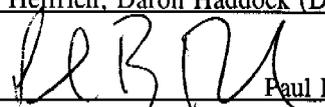
Several species in the seed mixture lose viability quickly, and I am concerned about how much of the seed left over from last year is still viable. Species known to lose seed viability quickly include big sage, Louisiana sage, rabbitbrush, aster, and winterfat. Depending on storage conditions, such as temperature (it was a very hot summer), temperature fluctuation, humidity, protection from rodents and insects, and other factors, the leftover seed could all be dead or it could be in nearly the same condition as it was last year. Even under ideal conditions, some of the species are known to sometimes lose viability very rapidly.

I am ^{also} concerned about how much seed was actually used in Sowbelly Gulch. There are places where I found very little or no seed, but it can be hard to find seed in places that have been hydromulched. However, some areas had no mulch cover, and I still couldn't find any seed. It would be impossible to prove that a violation exists. The seeding contractor assured me that adequate amounts of seed were used. He also said that his employees dragged a chain across some areas that were not hydroseeded, and this may have covered most of the seed.

Copy of this Report:

Mailed to: Marcia Petta (OSM), Lonnie Mills (AMAX)

Given to: Joe Helfrich, Daron Haddock (DOGM)

Inspector's Signature: 

Paul B. Baker #41

Date: December 5, 1994