



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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## INSPECTION REPORT

Partial:  Complete:  Exploration:   
Inspection Date & Time: May 19, 1994, 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.  
Date of Last Inspection: April 14, 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 Helper, Utah  
Type of Mining Activity: Underground  Surface  Prep. Plant  Other   
State Official(s): Paul Baker  
Company Official(s): Tom Hurst and Lonnie Mills  
Federal Official(s): None  
Weather Conditions: Partly Cloudy, 60's, Windy  
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 (  Phase I /  Phase II /  Final Bond Release / 9 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 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 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" 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 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) <u>May 19, 1994</u> (date)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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: May 19, 1994

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

### 1. Permits, Change, Transfer, Renewal, Sale

#### 19. AVS Check

The Division is continuing to review and process the updated ownership and control information received in March. Messrs. Mills and Hurst were not aware of any changes in this information.

### 4. Hydrologic Balance

#### a. Diversions

The ditch that will carry water from the east side of the upper portion of Sowbelly Gulch to pond 16 is uneven, and I do not expect it to function properly in its current condition. The water control structures in reclaimed areas of Sowbelly Gulch are not yet operational; this problem needs to be fixed before the main channel is opened to the main channel below the disturbed area.

The previous inspection report mentioned that the box culvert labelled CGC-8 was not the same size as shown in the plan. I remeasured this culvert and found my earlier measurement to be in error. However, there is some sediment at the culvert's inlet that should be cleaned.

#### b. Sediment Ponds and Impoundments

Pond 4 in Sowbelly Gulch has been filled in. All drainage from the area previously treated by pond 4 would be treated by pond 5.

The reclamation contractor is placing riprap on the pond 16 emergency spillway.

#### c. Other Sediment Control Measures

The operator needs to repair some of the silt fences in the No. 4 Mine canyon and at Adit No. 1. At the adit, part of the silt fence was torn, and this could lead to the rest of the fence being damaged. I do not believe there was any potential for untreated water to leave the site. In the No. 4 Mine canyon, silt fences that were tacked down last winter need to be installed properly.

#### d. Water Monitoring

During the past year, some of the water monitoring stations, such as those in Hardscrabble Canyon and Sowbelly Gulch, have always been dry. I suggested that the operator attempt to sample when there is rainfall or snowmelt. Otherwise, these sites will always be dry. The data from such sampling could eventually be used to support bond release.

### 13. Revegetation

Vegetation appears to be establishing well on the north side of the No. 4 Mine canyon. It is not quite as good on the south side. There are a lot of penstemon seedlings, but I saw no shrubs. There was a relatively small number of weeds.

In Sowbelly Gulch, seedlings are extremely sparse. Last fall, I found very few seeds when I looked to try to confirm what species had been planted. I questioned how much seed had been planted, but, even when seeds are broadcast, they can be covered and become hard to find. The seeding rate could have been less than the plan calls for. Other problems may also be reducing the number of seedlings, such as the high clay content in the soil. I do not believe the weather has limited vegetation establishment yet, but weather could become limiting if there is little or no rain before it gets hot.

We again talked about noxious weeds. The whitetop on the topsoil pile near the mouth of Crandall Canyon was apparently sprayed by Carbon County, but they did not spray other whitetop infestations on the Crandall Canyon road.

## INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

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PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/004

DATE OF INSPECTION: May 19, 1994

The musk thistle population in Crandall Canyon has been reduced compared to past years, but this weed is still a problem. Particularly, the road to the drain fields has a lot that will flower this year unless they are controlled.

Most of the disturbed areas of Hardscrabble Canyon just have scattered populations of dyer's woad. The No. 4 Mine canyon, though, has many plants that are now blooming, primarily in areas on the north side of the canyon that were not regraded last fall. These need to be controlled as soon as possible. Otherwise, seed from these plants will infest the reclaimed areas. Some of the regraded areas have a lot of dyer's woad seedlings that would be expected to bloom next year. These should also be controlled.

There are two areas of Goose Island where there are small patches of field bindweed. Also, the bindweed below the lower topsoil pile in Crandall Canyon is beginning to emerge.

We discussed ways to avoid problems with unauthorized substitutions in seed mixtures. The options are limited. The best choice, if possible, is to purchase the seed for fall planting during the summer, about June or July. The seed could then be sampled by the State Agriculture Inspector and submitted to the Department of Agriculture for testing during the laboratory's least busy season. The seed would need to be stored out of the summer heat, away from rodents, and in a dry place until it was time to plant it. An office environment with a fairly constant temperature works well. When the laboratory's results were received, the seed mix could be accepted, supplemented, or rejected.

If it was impossible to have the seed tested completely prior to planting, the seed laboratory could at least verify that the correct species were present in the mixture. This process should be much faster than the complete analysis.

### 16. Roads

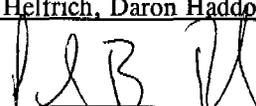
#### a. Construction/Maintenance, Surfacing

Some of the roads in the preparation plant area have been recently graded.

### Copy of this Report:

Mailed to: Marcia Petta (OSM), John Borla (AMAX)

Given to: Joe Helfrich, Daron Haddock (DOGM)

Inspector's Signature:  Paul B. Baker #41 Date: May 23, 1994