



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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INSPECTION REPORT

Partial: X Complete: Exploration:

Inspection Date & Time: April 14, 1994, 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Date of Last Inspection: March 9, 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 X Surface Prep. Plant X Other
State Officials(s): Paul Baker and Scott Milovich
Company Official(s): Tom Hurst and David Steed
Federal Official(s): None
Weather Conditions: Partly Cloudy, 50'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/ 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.

Table with 5 columns: Item, EVALUATED, N/A, COMMENTS, NOV/ENF. Rows include categories like PERMITS, CHANGE, TRANSFER, RENEWAL, SALE; SIGNS AND MARKERS; TOPSOIL; HYDROLOGIC BALANCE; EXPLOSIVES; DISPOSAL OF EXCESS SPOIL/FILLS/BENCHES; COAL MINE WASTE/REFUSE PILES/IMPOUNDMENTS; NONCOAL WASTE; PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES; SLIDES AND OTHER DAMAGE; CONTEMPORANEOUS RECLAMATION; BACKFILLING AND GRADING; REVEGETATION; SUBSIDENCE CONTROL; CESSATION OF OPERATIONS; ROADS; OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES; SUPPORT FACILITIES/UTILITY INSTALLATIONS; AVS CHECK; AIR QUALITY PERMIT; BONDING & INSURANCE.



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PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/004

DATE OF INSPECTION: April 14, 1994

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

1. Permits, Change, Transfer, Renewal, Sale

The Division is continuing to review and process the updated ownership and control information received in March.

4. Hydrologic Balance

a. Diversions

We measured many of the water control structures in the preparation plant area. Most of the ditches and culverts were about the same size as or slightly larger than the design standards. The only problem we found was the "box" labelled CGC-8. The size of this box stated in the plan is probably in error since the box has not been altered recently. The adequacy of the existing structure needs to be evaluated.

Berms that may need to be made taller in some places are CGB-2, CGB-3, CGB-5, and CGB-6. There was no evidence that water from disturbed areas had entered drainages carrying water from undisturbed areas.

The operator is in the process of obtaining bids to extend culvert CGC-4 to pond 13. This needs to be done as quickly as possible.

12. Backfilling and Grading

Grading has recommenced in Sowbelly Gulch. The contractor is working to backfill the No. 5 Mine highwall and to fill pond 4.

13. Revegetation

Violation N94-41-1-1 was terminated based on this inspection. I was told that the seeding contractor seeded blue leaf aster and Basin wild rye on April 1, 1994. I was able to find a seed of Basin wild rye but did not expect to be able to find seed of blueleaf aster.

We looked at noxious weed locations in Crandall Canyon. It appears that last year's herbicide applications have reduced the populations of whitetop and musk thistle, but these weeds have not been eliminated.

Mr. Hurst said that the dyer's woad in Hardscrabble Canyon was sprayed with 2,4-D on April 1, 1994, but I saw no evidence that these plants were affected by herbicides. The plants are still in early stages of development and have not started to bolt. Depending on the weather, further control measures will probably need to be used within about the next month.

We found no seedlings of planted species in Sowbelly Gulch, but we found a lot of grass seedlings in Hardscrabble Canyon. Hopefully, with continued rain, these can establish and survive the summer.

The March inspection report discussed the seed analysis for seed intended for use as seed mix 3. It said that the seed obtained for this purpose should not be used. The problems with the seed that was sampled are:

1. Altai wild rye, an introduced species, was substituted for Basin wild rye.
2. Yellow sweet clover was included at four times the rate specified in the plan. Yellow sweet clover is an introduced species that was approved for inclusion in the final reclamation seed mixture but not at this rate.
3. The mixture contains Kentucky bluegrass at five times the rate specified in the plan.

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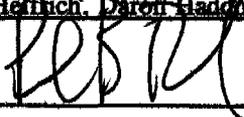
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4. Mountain brome was included in the seed mixture at one-half the rate specified in the plan.
5. Serviceberry was included in the seed mixture, but the plan says that this species would be established with transplants.

Seed mixtures are designed with certain proportions of seed from certain species to increase diversity and prevent dominance by a few species. Kentucky bluegrass and yellow sweet clover have the potential to exclude some of the other species. Altai wild rye is an introduced species that has not been demonstrated to be desirable and necessary for the postmining land use. Basin wild rye is an important species for wildlife use.

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: April 22, 1994