



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

John

Michael O. Leavitt
 Governor
 Ted Stewart
 Executive Director
 James W. Carter
 Division Director

355 West North Temple
 3 Triad Center, Suite 350
 Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203
 801-538-5340
 801-359-3940 (Fax)
 801-538-5319 (TDD)

INSPECTION REPORT

Partial: X Complete: Exploration:
 Inspection Date & Time: March 9, 1994, 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
 Date of Last Inspection: February 16, 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 Officials(s): Paul Baker and Scott Milovich
 Company Official(s): Tom Hurst
 Federal Official(s): None
 Weather Conditions: Partly Cloudy, 40-50's, snow in protected locations
 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.

	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 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 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. REVEGETATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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)

Page 2 of 3

PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/004

DATE OF INSPECTION: March 9, 1994

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

1. Permits, Change, Transfer, Renewal, Sale

On March 4, 1994, the Division received a response to its February 16, 1994, letter that requested updates for Chapter 2 of the mining and reclamation plan. This information has yet to be reviewed.

3. Topsoil

Some of the analyses of soil from Sowbelly Gulch have shown very high salt contents. There is some confusion about where some of the sample sites were. (In one case, the lower site is labelled "upper" and the upper site is labelled "lower.") We took three samples from the side canyon containing pond 5. These samples will be analyzed by the Division for electrical conductivity. All three of the samples had a strong odor of hydrocarbons, probably diesel fuel. Further sampling to analyze for hydrocarbons may be needed.

4. Hydrologic Balance

a. Diversions

The berm at the edge of the refuse pile in Schoolhouse Canyon needs to be checked to see if it meets the design in the plan. The design says that it should be three feet high and one foot across at the top. We did not measure the berm, but it may not meet the design requirements.

With the snowmelt, the hillside at the outlet of culvert CGC-4 has further eroded. The plan says that a half-round culvert will be installed between the existing culvert and pond 13 by August 31, 1994. Despite the commitment in the plan, the erosion is a potential non-compliance situation that must be corrected as quickly as possible. Weather conditions may prevent the operator from installing the culvert immediately, but, if at all possible, it should be installed by March 28. The plan for correcting the problem was approved in July, 1993.

13. Revegetation

In October, 1993, the State Agriculture Inspector took samples of the seed intended for use in Hardscrabble Canyon, Sowbelly Gulch, and the Castle Gate Preparation Plant. The laboratory analyses showed several problems.

Seed mix 3 has not yet been used. The sample contained about four times as much sweet clover as it should, and it has Altai wild rye, an introduced species, instead of Basin wild rye, a native species. There are several other problems with the proportions of seed in the mixture compared to the plan. This seed should not be used.

Seed mix 1 was applied to reclaimed areas of Hardscrabble Canyon and Sowbelly Gulch. The analysis showed that intermediate wheatgrass, an introduced species, was substituted for Basin wild rye. The plan says that if a species on the species list is not available, substitution of an equivalent native species will be made and reported to the Division. It is not known if Basin wild rye was available last fall. Assuming that it was not available, the substitution was not done in accordance with the plan. The substitution was of an introduced species rather than a native species, and it was not reported to the Division.

One other problem with this seed mixture is that the germination and purity analyses of blueleaf aster were much lower than claimed on the label. The amount of pure live seed applied was 0.02 pounds per acre, and the plan says that 0.5 pounds per acre would be seeded.

The seed label that was on the bags containing mix 1 showed the proper proportions and species of seed. The substitution of intermediate wheatgrass for Basin wild rye and the reduction in the amount of blueleaf aster seed were apparently done without the knowledge of the operator. Nevertheless, the seed application was not in compliance with the plan. Therefore, N94-41-1-1 is being issued for failing to perform the seeding operation in accordance with the approved plan.

INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

Page 3 of 3

PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/004

DATE OF INSPECTION: March 9, 1994

The interim seed mix used at the preparation plant contained restricted noxious weed seeds in excess of the amount allowed in the State Seed Act. The regulations do not say that noxious weeds may not be planted. However, they do say that reestablished vegetation must meet the requirements of State and federal seed and noxious weed laws. The operator needs to check areas seeded with the interim mix and control wild oats if they become established.

We discussed control of other noxious weeds. We walked along the edge of the regraded No. 4 Mine canyon and saw numerous dyer's woad seedlings. These could become a serious problem in the newly-reclaimed area if they are allowed to set seed. Dyer's woad is in other parts of Hardscrabble Canyon, also. Other noxious weeds that need to be controlled as much as possible are: 1) Whitetop on the topsoil pile at the mouth of Crandall Canyon and along the Crandall Canyon access road. 2) Bindweed just below the topsoil pile at the mouth of Crandall Canyon and at two locations in Goose Island. 3) Musk thistle scattered in all of the areas but especially prevalent in Crandall Canyon.

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: March 11, 1994