

Act/007/004

0005



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: December 15, 1995, 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Date of Last Inspection: November 24, 1995

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 Mike Sufilita

Company Official(s): Johnny Pappas

Federal Official(s): None

Weather Conditions: partly Cloudy, 20's, up to about 2 inches of snow on the ground

Existing Acreage: Permitted- 7646.5 Disturbed- 197.5 Regraded- 33.2 Seeded- 33.2 Bonded- 162

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" 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: December 15, 1995

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

1. Permits, Change, Transfer, Renewal, Sale

On December 18, 1995, the Division approved changes to the Willow Creek refuse removal plan. These changes were in response to Division concerns about various diversion ditches and the berm around the topsoil stockpile.

2. Signs and Markers

During the inspection, disturbed area markers in Crandall Canyon were being painted. Mr. Pappas said disturbed area markers are being moved in Hardscrabble and Gravel Canyons so they correspond with disturbed area maps more closely.

4. Hydrologic Balance

a. Diversions

The operator needs to begin *very soon* to continue construction of CGD-7 on the southeast side of the Schoolhouse Canyon refuse pile. The pile is about 35 feet higher than it was a few months ago, and there is no drainage control structure on this side of the pile. Any water flow would probably result in a lot of erosion of the refuse.

We discussed maintenance of certain drainage control structures in Crandall Canyon. There are some large rocks partially blocking the main channel and the three large culverts under the road. (There were bear tracks in the sediment in one of the culverts.) We agreed to evaluate the size of the culverts and channel in relation to the amount of water they are designed to pass. Mr. Pappas expressed willingness to clean these structures if necessary.

c. Other Sediment Control Measures

Reclamation work is completed in Sowbelly Gulch. Surface roughening and mulching are the primary sediment control measures. There has been little if any rain or snowmelt to test these measures.

d. Water Monitoring

According to Exhibit 7-3 in the plan. Water monitoring point B-22 should be at about 6500 feet elevation. There is a sign that is supposed to mark this point. Mr. Pappas had the location of the sign surveyed, and it was at 6503.9 feet. The spring is about 45 feet downstream from the sign at just under 6500 feet elevation. There was a little water coming from the spring, but most water in the channel was frozen.

N95-41-3-1 has been modified to require a plan amendment rather than moving the sign for B-22. Mr. Pappas was concerned that if the marker was moved and the spring was called B-22, it would indicate the spring had been dry and was suddenly starting to flow. Amending the plan and including a new sampling point should alleviate the potential confusion. However, I still believe the operator should have been monitoring the spring rather than the place where the sign is. It appears the spring may have been moving.

7. Coal Mine Waste/Refuse Piles/Impoundments

Mr. Sufilita and I hiked up the refuse pile to where the refuse from the Willow Creek area is being placed. The refuse pile has been raised about 35 feet so far. The slope of the new material appears to be steeper than 2h:1v; I believe it is about 1.5h:1v. The mining and reclamation plan says the pile will be no steeper than 2h:1v when it is reclaimed. I believe it would be easier for the operator to construct the pile with a 2h:1v slope rather than trying to reconfigure it later.

The plan also says the pile will have 40-foot wide terraces constructed every 50 feet in elevation. During operations, it may be difficult to construct these terraces because of the need to have a road going to the top of the pile, but the operator should keep the final reclamation designs in mind as the pile is being built.

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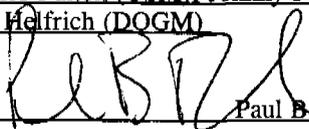
The operator needs to ensure that water will not pond on the refuse pile. It appeared that water might pond toward the back of the pile, but we did not measure slopes to confirm this. Also, the ditches need to be graded so water will flow better in them. It appears the ditches are continually being regraded as more refuse is added to the pile.

The second terrace from the bottom in the partially reclaimed area has been graded so water will flow into CGD-7. The operator built a small riprapped channel at the end of the terrace so water can go into the larger ditch.

Copy of this Report:

Mailed to: James Fulton (OSM), Johnny Pappas and Ben Grimes (Amax)

Given to: Joe Helfrich (DOGM)

Inspector's Signature:  Paul B. Baker #41 Date: December 21, 1995