



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: November 24, 1995, 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
Date of Last Inspection: October 13, 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 Surface Prep. Plant Other
State Official(s): Paul Baker
Company Official(s): Johnny Pappas
Federal Official(s): None
Weather Conditions: Partly Cloudy, 40-50's, a little snow on the ground in Crandall Canyon
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 (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/ENE
1. PERMITS, CHANGE, TRANSFER, RENEWAL, SALE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>

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PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/004

DATE OF INSPECTION: November 22, 1995

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

I was unable to thoroughly inspect the Willow Creek refuse removal site and the Schoolhouse Canyon refuse pile. Large trucks are taking refuse from the Willow Creek site to Schoolhouse Canyon, and it would have been very dangerous to inspect these areas. We did look at these areas from a distance, and it appears drainage control structures are in place and functioning.

4. Hydrologic Balance

a. Diversions

Alterations to the diversions in the No. 4 canyon and in Sowbelly Gulch are nearly complete. The operator has placed soil on the riprap in an attempt to facilitate vegetation reestablishment. For this reason, it is impossible to tell what the riprap sizing is. However, I was told a professional engineer looked at the riprap before the soil was placed in the channels, and he should be providing certified as-built drawings.

There has been a berm on the northeast side of the bridge leading to the unit train loadout. This berm keeps water from going into the Price River. The mining and reclamation plan says this berm may need to be taken out occasionally to allow access to the loadout. During the inspection, the berm was not there. It needs to be replaced as soon as possible. An alternative would be to install straw bales or a silt fence under the bridge. The operator is also considering sloping the road so drainage would go to pond 11.

b. Sediment Ponds and Impoundments

We attempted to repair the oil skimmer on the main outlet to pond 12A (see the report for the September inspection). Although the skimmer is in place, our repair is unlikely to last very long. The operator should probably weld rebar to the skimmer, but I'm sure there are other alternatives.

c. Other Sediment Control Measures

Reclamation work in Sowbelly Gulch and in the No. 4 Mine Canyon is nearing completion. Most of the redisturbed areas have been gouged for sediment control as discussed in the mining and reclamation plan. There is not as much straw on the surface as I expected. Much of the straw was blown away according to Mr. Pappas and the contractor doing the reclamation work. I believe the remaining straw combined with the gouging will still provide adequate erosion/sediment control, but the operator will need to monitor these sites for signs of sediment leaving.

d. Water Monitoring

On September 21, I conducted an inspection where Gary Fritz of OSM and Mr. Pappas were both present. We went up Crandall Canyon and found water that originated at spring B-22. We followed the water to the spring located just below the upper topsoil pile. The spring was flowing at a rate that we estimated at about two gallons per minute. Near the spring, there was orange precipitate, but farther away there was none.

Although we found water at B-22, the third quarter water monitoring report shows this spring as being dry. There is a sign marking the monitoring location, but it is about 40 feet upstream from the spring. I believe the person doing the sampling may have simply gone to the sign, seen no water, and called it dry. The plan says the *spring* will be monitored, not the spot where the sign is located. Violation N95-41-3-1 is being issued for failing to conduct water monitoring in accordance with the approved mining and reclamation plan.

In addition to the third quarter, the second quarter report says this spring was dry yet there was about 107 gallons per minute of flow in the creek near the mine. Although I am not certain whether the spring had water in the second quarter, I strongly suspect it did.

The water monitoring reports for Crandall Canyon are confusing, and the violation abatement requires this to be changed. In addition, the summary report for site BM-30 says this is an inflow to a pond. Water from

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PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/004

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BM-30 formerly flowed into pond 10, but the water now goes through a pipe under highway 6 to the preparation plant disturbed area. This report form should also be changed.

13. Revegetation

The Willow Creek topsoil pile needs to be seeded or otherwise stabilized. I saw no signs of erosion, but there has been little precipitation since it was completed.

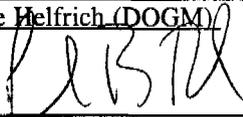
The report for the October inspection discusses seed sampling and testing. Because of the problems with the original seed, the operator has obtained seed from different suppliers. I took samples of this seed and did not see problems with it.

On November 16, 1995, Soil Guard mulch was applied to some of the redisturbed/regraded slopes in the No. 4 Mine canyon. The mulch is applied hydraulically, similar to traditional wood fiber hydromulch, but it is a coarser fiber, contains more tackifier, and it was applied at a higher rate. I am concerned about how well seedlings will be able to penetrate the mulch. However, according to representatives of the manufacturer and distributor, this mulch has been successfully used in other areas with limited precipitation and very steep slopes. I tested whether seedlings would emerge through a sample of the mulch. Grasses were most successful, but fourwing saltbush was also able to emerge.

Copy of this Report:

Mailed to: Donna Griffin (OSM), Johnny Pappas (Amax)

Given to: Joe Helfrich (DOGM)

Inspector's Signature:  Paul B. Baker #41 Date: November 27, 1995