



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: October 13, 1995, 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM

Date of Last Inspection: September 21-22, 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 Official(s): Paul Baker
 Company Official(s): Johnny Pappas and Ben Grimes
 Federal Official(s): None
 Weather Conditions: Clear, 30-60's
 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

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/ENE
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 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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 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: October 13, 1995

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

1. Permits, Change, Transfer, Renewal, Sale

On October 5 and 16, 1995, Amax submitted changes to the Willow Creek Refuse Removal Project revision.

3. Topsoil

The operator attempted to remove all soil overlying refuse at the Willow Creek refuse site. There is still a little soil remaining, but it would be difficult to salvage it without taking a lot of refuse. Some refuse was necessarily included with the soil that was salvaged. It was my impression that the soil was very soft and powdery, probably indicating a fine texture.

4. Hydrologic Balance

a. Diversions

Some water control structures in the Willow Creek area are not exactly as they were designed, and the operator has submitted an application to change parts of the plan. Mr. Grimes and I discussed some further changes that will need to be made.

Drainage from watershed UD-5 is supposed to flow to a swale, then to ditch UD-5, then into a drainage associated with the highway. Topography of the immediate area would make it difficult to build the ditch and have it work properly. Right now, drainage from only a small part of this area would flow toward the swale and ditch if they were built. However, overflow from sediment trap #3 would also flow toward this area. The way the area has been graded, drainage would be contained in the topsoil stockpile total containment berm. The operator needs to further consider how to handle drainage from this area and may need to revise the plan. Mr. Grimes said he will consider enlarging sediment trap #3 to make it a total containment structure.

The swale associated with sediment trap #2 in the Willow Creek area appears to be shallower than its six-inch design depth. Because of the slope of the road and the swale's location, it is unlikely water would bypass the swale and trap but this could happen in an intense storm. Although I recognize that trucks will need to drive over the swale, the operator should attempt to deepen it.

The operator is continuing to modify the channels in Sowbelly Gulch.

b. Sediment Ponds and Impoundments

Both sediment ponds in Sowbelly Gulch have now been either graded over or filled in. Pond 17 (the lower pond) was filled mostly with coal refuse from the area of the upper part of SBRD-2. It also contains some concrete.

Willow Creek pond #1 is somewhat dissimilar to its design. Mr. Grimes said the operator will be certifying the construction.

c. Other Sediment Control Measures

Several areas near the channels in Sowbelly Gulch have been roughened in an attempt to keep drainage on site. Four silt fences were installed in the main channel downstream of the site in case other sediment control measures fail during the construction period. The operator will be incorporating two tons per acre of hay into the soil then applying one additional ton per acre of straw mulch.

7. Coal Mine Waste/Refuse Piles/Impoundments

The September inspection report discussed an area on the second terrace of the Schoolhouse Canyon refuse pile where water was tending to pond. Also, runoff intercepted by this terrace is not diverted into a ditch. Rather, it flows over the face of the pile.

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Mr. Grimes and I discussed ways of modifying the terrace so water could be diverted to CGD-7. Mr. Grimes mentioned the possibility of putting refuse on the terrace. However, near the mouth of Barn Canyon, a backhoe was digging in an apparent attempt to widen the refuse pile road. Rather than using refuse, the operator should consider using material from where the road is being widened. (This was Mr. Pappas's idea.)

13. Revegetation

During the September inspection, I took a sample of seed intended to be used for most of the redisturbed areas in Sowbelly Gulch. Even though the seed label indicated it had every species in species list #1 from the plan in the proper proportions, I did not find a few species that should have been there. For this reason, I took a sample to the Utah State Seed Laboratory and asked them for a list of species actually in the mixture. Blueleaf aster and purple prairie clover were missing from the sample. I believe the seed dealer will be supplying additional seed to make up for these two species.

The seed also contained quackgrass, a prohibited noxious weed, and wild oats and poverty weed, both restricted noxious weeds. Restricted noxious weeds are allowed in seed at the rate of up to 27 per pound. The lab informed me that there were more wild oats seed than would be allowed, but poverty weed was below the limit.

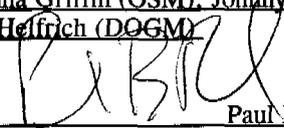
The regulations do not prohibit planting noxious weeds, but reestablished vegetation must meet the requirements of state and federal seed and noxious weed laws. The Utah Noxious Weed Act does not allow planting propagules of noxious weeds.

I also took a sample of the riparian seed mix and took it to the seed lab, but the results are not back yet. I do not believe this seed contained blueleaf aster. Also, the label said the lupine had 89% viability, but most lupine seeds were shriveled. I requested a TZ viability test on the lupine.

Copy of this Report:

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

Given to: Joe Helfrich (DOGMD)

Inspector's Signature:  Paul B. Baker #41 Date: October 17, 1995