

0027



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

ACT 007/004 gph

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## INSPECTION REPORT

Partial: X Complete:      Exploration:       
Inspection Date & Time: June 28, 1995, 8:00 A.M. to 12:20 P.M.  
Date of Last Inspection: May 17, 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  
Federal Official(s): None  
Weather Conditions: Partly Cloudy, 80's  
Existing Acreage: Permitted- 7619 Disturbed- 170 Regraded- 33.2 Seeded- 33.2 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/ 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 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 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. DRAINAGE CONTROLS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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: June 28, 1995

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

### 1. Permits, Change, Transfer, Renewal, Sale

On June 12, 1995, Amax responded to the draft review of the Willow Creek refuse removal project and to the review of the conflict elimination proposal. The letter accompanying this submittal says the reclamation bond estimate that is based on the approved reclamation plan is nearing completion and will be submitted soon.

On June 19, 1995, Amax submitted a soil sampling plan for Sowbelly Gulch. This was approved on June 26 with stipulations.

### 3. Topsoil

On June 27, Henry Sauer of the Division and David McMillan of EarthFax Engineering took soil samples in about six pits in Sowbelly Gulch. As-built drawings indicate there is coal refuse near pond 17, but they found little refuse. Mr. Sauer is concerned about the bulk density, particularly in the areas above pond 16. The Division will analyze the results when they have been received.

### 4. Hydrologic Balance

#### a. Diversions

Diversion CGD-19 near the Schoolhouse Canyon refuse pile has eroded a little and is showing signs of headcutting near culvert CGC-4. The problem is not serious and does not merit enforcement action, but it should be repaired before it gets worse.

### 9. Protection of Fish, Wildlife, and Related Environmental Values

There are two raptor nests in Barn Canyon within about one-half mile of Willow Creek drill site PRP2. Since Cyprus Plateau is conducting exploration activities near the nests in the crucial nesting period, there was concern about effects on birds that might be nesting. The nests were checked for nesting activity earlier this year and found not to be active.

### 12. Backfilling and Grading

As discussed in previous inspection reports, last summer, two people from the Division staff and one other person found a hole in the graded area. They dropped rocks into the hole, but they couldn't hear them land. The location of this hole was not marked. In May, I visited Sowbelly Gulch (not as part of an inspection) after a night of steady rain. There were puddles in every depression except one. This one is just north of pond 16 about 15 feet from the diversion directing water into the pond. It has a small hole in it, but it is impossible to tell how far the hole extends. This depression and hole could be the same one found last summer and could connect to the mine workings.

### 13. Revegetation

In most areas of Sowbelly Gulch, the new vegetation is looking fairly good. It is a little patchy, though. The place with the least vegetation is immediately above pond 16. I measured the number of seedlings of seeded species in several square-foot plots. This was simply an attempt to estimate the number of seedlings per square foot and did not necessarily represent a statistically valid sampling procedure. I counted the number of seedlings in 25 plots. The average number per plot was 2.2. Three of the plots had far more seedlings than any of the others. If those are removed from the calculation, the average number is 1.3.

According to various references, this number of seedlings should be adequate. However, I am concerned about the vigor of the seedlings and soil conditions. Further measurements will be made later in the summer.

## INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

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PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/004

DATE OF INSPECTION: June 28, 1995

### 16. Roads

#### b. Drainage Controls

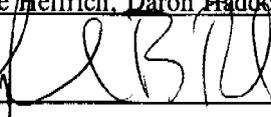
Near the unit train loadout at the Castle Gate Preparation Plant, water tends to pond in road A-2 . This is not a serious problem, but it should be corrected when the road is graded again. It will require more than just smoothing over bumps and ruts in the road.

We drove up Barn Canyon to one of the sites of Cyprus Plateau's exploration for the proposed Willow Creek Mine. The Bureau of Land Management is the lead regulatory agency for this activity, and Don Stevens of the BLM was at the site. I saw no environmental problems at the drill site itself. The road up Barn Canyon has probably not been used in several years, and it had to be regraded. In several places, the road follows the ephemeral channel. In some places, rocks and soil have been pushed to the side in such a way that they would block the path of any water coming down the canyon. Mr. Pappas told me on June 29 that he had spoken with the people who did the road work and that they would fix this problem.

#### Copy of this Report:

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

Given to: Joe Helfrich, Daron Haddock (DOGM)

Inspector's Signature: 

Paul B. Baker #41

Date: June 30, 1995