



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

INSPECTION REPORT

Michael O. Leavitt
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Partial: X Complete: Exploration:
 Date & Time: October 16 and 22, 1996, 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM and 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM
 Date of Last Inspection: September 11, 1996

Mine Name: Castle Gate County: Carbon Permit Number: ACT/007/004
 Permittee and/or Operator's Name: AMAX Coal Co.
 Business Address: P. O. Drawer PMC, Price, Utah 84501
 Type of Mining Activity: Underground X Surface Prep. Plant X Other
 State Officials(s): Paul Baker, Steve Johnson, Pam Grubaugh-Littig, Bob Davidson, and Randy Harden
 Company Official(s): Johnny Pappas
 Federal Official(s): Dennis Winterringer
 Weather Conditions: Mostly cloudy, 40's on the 16th, mostly clear, 30-40's on the 22nd
 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.

	<u>EVALUATED</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>	<u>NOV/ENF</u>
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 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 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 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. DRAINAGE CONTROLS	<input 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"/>



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(Continuation sheet)

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PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/004

DATE OF INSPECTION: October 16 and 22, 1996

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

1. Permits, Change, Transfer, Renewal, Sale

In May, the Division received some updated ownership and control information including a new land ownership map. Since then, there has been a permit transfer and a company name change. The permittee submitted new information to supplement what was received before.

3. Topsoil

On October 4, Bob Davidson, soils specialist, and I visited the site. Some of the substitute topsoil was being screened to obtain rock for the granular filter in the channel. We were very concerned about this because of the importance of rock in reducing erosion. The contractor agreed to use the screened soil either in places where the slopes are not very steep or under soil that had not been screened or that had only been screened for larger rocks (8" plus). One foot of screened soil would be under one foot of unscreened soil.

During the bond release inspection in Sowbelly Gulch, Mr. Davidson took samples of soil from two areas. These areas have little vegetation, including weeds. These areas have been previously sampled with no problems found, but he will check the samples we took for electrical conductivity and pH. The areas with little vegetation are relatively small compared to the whole site, perhaps 2000 square feet.

12. Backfilling and Grading

The main purpose of the inspection on the sixteenth was to see how backfilling and grading is progressing in Hardscrabble Canyon and to discuss some details of how it should be done. The operator had made a lot more progress by the twenty-second. The two areas we discussed at length were Dog Flat and an area southeast of where a shop building was on a pad above the canyon bottom. In the area near where the shop was, it looked like some dirt had once been pushed off the pad and on to the side of the hill. This material has fairly good vegetation cover on it although there's quite a bit of cheatgrass. The lower part is steeper than the rest and has very little vegetation. I felt this area could be left alone and would still blend in well with the rest of the site, but Bill Minchey, the permittee's contractor, wanted to use this material as substitute topsoil and felt he could make the area look better than it does now. Based on this conversation, Mr. Pappas and I agreed it would be all right to go ahead and use this material.

In the Dog Flat area, we had a few concerns, but they had been mostly eliminated by the inspection on the twenty-second. The channel was curving in a way that water going down the channel would be directed right into some fill, but this fill and some large rocks were moved. The north-facing slope in Dog Flat is still very steep (about 1.5h:1v), but it should be possible to lessen the grade of this slope.

Mr. Pappas expressed his preference for leaving a ditch in Dog Flat that diverts water from undisturbed areas away from disturbed areas. The ditch would have to be reworked so it would direct water toward the channel in Dog Flat rather than toward the main canyon, but he felt this diversion would break up the long slope and reduce erosion problems in the reclaimed area. My experience with diversions like this is that they tend to silt in, fail, and concentrate water and erosion problems. I don't believe there will normally be much runoff from undisturbed areas although it has happened before. We agreed the ditch will be eliminated, and it was gone on the twenty-second.

Another area we talked about is a relatively flat area where there used to be a bathhouse on the west side of the main channel. This flat area is quite narrow even though there's a good-sized cut just to the west of it. There's a limited amount of backfilling work that can be done in this area, but I felt the cut should be eliminated as much as possible. There is the same situation on a flat area that leads to the top of Dog Flat, and, in this area, I believe there's also a sandstone ledge that will limit the amount of fill available. Still, I believe the cut should be backfilled as much as possible.

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In general, I am pleased with how reclamation is progressing. The exposed rock face in Dog Flat is discolored because it was covered with refuse for several years, but it is clear this face is natural and it blends in with surrounding topography very nicely. The area near where the main office was is broad and relatively flat even though the sides have been almost tied in with the natural grade. The road leading to Goose Island has been moved, and the cut that was above this road has been completely eliminated.

The inspection on the twenty-second was a formal Phase I bond release inspection for Sowbelly Gulch. From my perspective, there was little to see that hasn't been noted in previous inspections. We checked specifically for any opening to underground workings from the portals or from cracks in the rock above the fan portal and found none. Also, there was previously an indication that there might be an opening to the workings from a spot a few hundred feet north of the main portal. I saw no sign of such an opening. No one expressed any other concerns about the backfilling and grading.

13. Revegetation

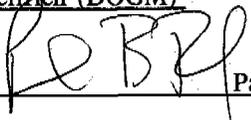
The contractor doing the reclamation work in Hardscrabble Canyon has some transplants in 2-gallon containers left over from another job that he is planning to plant in Hardscrabble. While nursery stock is normally planted in the spring, the fall should work at least as well and may be better. One problem I foresee is that they may be more susceptible to damage from big game. Some protection is advisable.

The species to be used include golden currant, curleaf mountain mahogany, chokecherry, and Wood's rose. All of these species are adapted to the site. They should be planted in some of the more protected places, particularly along the drainages or *next to cut slopes or highwalls that will remain after reclamation*. Although it appears most of these cuts will blend in with the surrounding terrain, some large plants in front of them may make a better landscaping job.

Copy of this Report:

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

Given to: Joe Helfrich (DOGM)

Inspector's Signature:  Paul B. Baker #41 Date: October 25, 1996