



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: September 11, 1996, 8:00 to 11:30 AM

Date of Last Inspection: August 29, 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 Official(s): Paul Baker, Daron Haddock and Randy Harden
 Company Official(s): Johnny Pappas and Ben Grimes
 Federal Official(s): Gene Hayes and Dennis Winterringer
 Weather Conditions: Cloudy, rain showers, 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/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 checked="" 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 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 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"/>



INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

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PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/004

DATE OF INSPECTION: September 11, 1996

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

1. Permits, Change, Transfer, Renewal, Sale

The Division has recently approved two amendments and one minor revision to a previously-approved amendment. Amendment 96 H was approved September 5, 1996. This is a one page amendment that references the mining and reclamation plan for the Willow Creek Mine (ACT/007/038) for some of the construction and other activities occurring in the Castle Gate Preparation Plant area.

Amendment 96A was approved September 10, 1996. This amendment makes some changes to the water monitoring plan.

In July, the Division approved amendment 96D but required Amax to make some minor changes. The changes were submitted August 20, 1996, and they were approved September 10, 1996. The amendment contains as-built designs for the reclamation in Sowbelly Gulch. Amax is expected to file an application for Phase I bond release soon.

3. Topsoil

In August, Bob Davidson, Division soils specialist, and I took several soil samples from an area where the operator was planning to excavate substitute topsoil. The results are generally good. The highest SAR value was 2.06 which is still considered good.

4. Hydrologic Balance

a. Diversions

The main channel in Hardscrabble Canyon is no longer completely blocked. As discussed in August's inspection report, the operator has made a channel so water could be routed to sediment pond 8. Although this is the best alternative the operator and the Division could find, it needs to be a temporary situation. Any substantial flow coming down the main channel could cause some serious problems although sediment would probably be contained in one of the ponds.

8. Noncoal Waste

The operator has removed about 300 cubic yards of diesel fuel-contaminated spoil from an area in and immediately adjacent to the main channel just above where the upper bathhouse used to be. According to Mr. Pappas, the material was taken to an approved disposal facility.

A lot of noncoal waste has been removed from refuse material, mostly from what was graded out from Dog Flat.

12. Backfilling and Grading

The purpose of Messrs. Hayes and Winterringer was primarily to evaluate backfilling and grading plans the Division has approved and to see how those plans are being implemented. My impression was they felt the operator was using reasonably available material to do the best job possible in Hardscrabble Canyon. They seemed to express more concern about the grading in Sowbelly Gulch. However, it was raining fairly hard when we were at Sowbelly, so we didn't go up the canyon too far. I think that they would not have had as much concern if they had seen the entire site. In the upper part of the canyon, almost all the cuts have been completely eliminated. The exposed cuts they saw were the largest ones at the site, and it is difficult to make a good judgment based on only seeing about one-third of the area.

Copy of this Report:

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

Given to: Joe Helfrich (DOGMA)

Inspector's Signature:  Paul B. Baker #41 Date: September 13, 1996