



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: August 28 & 29, 6:00 to 8:30 PM and 8:00 AM to 2:30 PM

Date of Last Inspection: July 30, 1996

Mine Name: Castle Gate County: Carbon Permit Number: ACT/007/004
 Permittee and/or Operator's Name: Amax Coal Holding Co.
 Business Address: P. O. Drawer PMC, Price, Utah 84501
 Type of Mining Activity: Underground Surface Prep. Plant Other
 State Officials(s): Paul Baker Company Official(s): Johnny Pappas from Amax and Bill Minchey with Minchey Digging (the contractor for reclamation in Hardscrabble Canyon
 Federal Official(s): None
 Weather Conditions: Clear, 60's to 80'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 (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 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. WATER MONITORING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. REVEGETATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. AIR QUALITY PERMIT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21. BONDING & INSURANCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

Page 2 of 4

PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/004

DATE OF INSPECTION: August 28 & 29, 1996

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

1. Permits, Change, Transfer, Renewal, Sale

The permittee is Amax Coal Holding Company, but this company changed its name to Amax Coal Company on August 5, 1996. The company is still the same--only the name was changed.

On August 23, 1996, Frank Wood of Amax Coal Holding Company submitted an amendment to Division Director James Carter including this new ownership and control information.

The amendment also includes a bond rider changing the name to Amax Coal Company. The insurance policy dated July 2, 1996, is in the name of "Cyprus Amax Minerals Company et al, including Amax Coal Company." The insurance policy does show the permit number for the Castle Gate Mine, ACT/007/004.

On August 23, 1996, the Division received revised as-built drawings for the Sowbelly Gulch reclamation. A Phase I bond release application is expected to follow.

On August 30, 1996, the Division received a response to Division Order 96A regarding soil salvage primarily in the Schoolhouse Canyon refuse pile area.

On August 21, 1996, the Division received revisions to the water monitoring plan. This is part of amendment 96A.

3. Topsoil

7. Coal Mine Waste/Refuse Piles/Impoundments

The operator is working to salvage as much substitute topsoil as possible in the Hardscrabble area. Much of the soil that will be used is alluvium that will be dug from the bottom of the canyon where there is no coal refuse contamination. Where soil is excavated, the operator is burying refuse.

On August 12, 1996, Bob Davidson and I visited the site and took several soil samples from some of the different areas where the operator plans to excavate substitute topsoil. Details of this visit are in a field visit report.

Right now, the main areas of soil salvage are on a pad below one of the shops and between the road and the main channel south of Goose Island.

On the upper pad, soil contaminated with salts has been placed against a cut to the east. I expressed concern about how much material would go over this soil because I feel it can be considered toxic to plants. It should be covered at least four feet deep, and Mr. Pappas and Mr. Minchey assured me this would be done.

Below the Dog Flat area is a large area from which soil will be salvaged. The operator has dug a pit to see what kind of material is there, and it shows no sign of coal refuse.

As expected, Dog Flat contained a large amount of refuse which the operator plans to bury either in a pit or use as fill against a cut slope. A large amount of refuse was found at the lower end of Goose Island where the operator is trying to connect the already-reclaimed channel with the area being reclaimed this year. This refuse is very coarse. Some of this material was buried in a pit near a cut slope to the south of where diversion HCD-3 comes in from the east. The remainder of the refuse should be buried.

INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

Page 3 of 4

4. Hydrologic Balance

a. Diversions

The main channel in Hardscrabble Canyon has been blocked by material being graded out of the Dog Flat area. If water came down the channel, it would flow into a depression in the area where the office used to be. I am concerned that this would essentially become an undesigned impoundment. We discussed various solutions to the problem and decided the operator would clear a more definite inlet to the depression and an outlet where water could flow out and down either the road or in the ditch on the side of the road. From here, water would enter pond 8. The operator has started removing the culvert inlet to pond 8, and this culvert and some earthen materials need to be removed so the inlet is clear. In the event of a large storm, some water would probably bypass pond 8, but it should be contained by pond 9.

While this is the temporary solution we decided upon, I plan to have a hydrologist look at the situation to see if there is a better way to route the water. I anticipate the undesigned pond could remain in place for a few weeks after which the new main channel should be completed to this area.

At the Castle Gate Preparation Plant, there is a box culvert near the entrance by the truck scales. To the northwest of the inlet to this culvert, the operator has reconstructed a ditch that is intended to carry water from undisturbed areas. However, as part of the conveyor construction, a cut was made above this ditch. Therefore, some of the water entering this ditch would be from a disturbed area. The operator has installed straw bales and a silt fence at the outlet to the box culvert which would treat water coming from the cut. When the cut is vegetated, it may become unnecessary to maintain the straw bales and silt fence, but the drainage should still be considered as coming from a disturbed area.

In this same area, the conveyor goes right over the ditch that is supposed to carry water from undisturbed areas. The operator intends to install an apron under the conveyor to keep coal from getting in the ditch, but I anticipate that a fair amount of coal will still get in the ditch. I believe this will be a maintenance and possibly a compliance problem. The operator should consider an alternative design, such as installing a culvert instead of having the ditch or enclosing the conveyor in a tube.

The operator presented to Division staff members some preliminary plans to extend the box culvert and to change the alignment of the railroad through this area and on the edge of pond 12B. Some people, presumably from the railroad, have begun working on the extension to the box culvert. Ben Grimes of Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation put up flagging between two of the disturbed area markers to show these people where they could and could not begin extending the culvert. During the inspection, all work was being done on the outside of the disturbed area.

There are two places where railroad personnel have had to drive over the berm on the southwest side of the preparation plant. While the berm is still intact, the operator needs to be sure it stays that way. The berm is the only thing keeping water from the disturbed area from going on unpermitted areas.

b. Sediment Ponds and Impoundments

Pond 7 in Hardscrabble Canyon has been completely filled in with concrete and coal refuse. Ponds 8 and 9 are still functional.

In Crandall Canyon, pond 14 still has water despite the very hot and dry summer. There is no question there is some kind of seep or spring supplying water to this pond. Wildlife tracks are all around the pond including some very nice bear tracks.

8. Noncoal Waste

There is a lot of noncoal waste that was buried in the refuse at Dog Flat. It would be nearly impossible to remove all of this, but the operator needs to at least take out the larger items, such as tires, brattice cloth, and wood.

INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

Page 4 of 4

12. Backfilling and Grading

We talked about several individual areas in Hardscrabble Canyon and about how much they can and should be backfilled. While the plan shows these areas, some changes will be made based on specific conditions. Some cuts have competent sandstone very similar to cliffs in nearby areas, and these may not need to be backfilled entirely. However, less competent rock, including exposed shale, should be backfilled as much as possible.

16. Roads

b. Drainage Controls

In Crandall Canyon, the third culvert from the bottom along the road is not visible because of leaves. These need to be cleared.

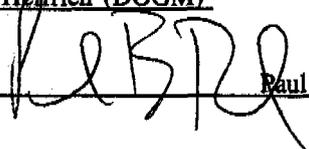
20 Air Quality Permit

The area has had very little rain in the last three months, and everything is extremely dry. The operator is watering the roads in Hardscrabble Canyon, and water is also being added to aid compaction on some of the fills. Although there is a large amount of fugitive dust being generated, I believe the operator is taking reasonable steps to control dust and is not in violation of Air Quality regulations.

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: September 5, 1996