



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: June 27, 1996, 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Date of Last Inspection: May 30, 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 and Pete Hess

Company Official(s): Johnny Pappas

Federal Official(s): None

Weather Conditions: Mostly Cloudy, 60-70's, a few rain showers

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 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 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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: June 27, 1996

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

3. Topsoil

There is a *very* small topsoil pile near the unit train loadout. I suggest this pile be combined with the Willow Creek or Gravel Canyon topsoil pile.

4. Hydrologic Balance

a. Diversions

The old portable loadout was recently removed. The berm in the area where this loadout used to be is lower than it needs to be.

The inspection report for May noted some ditches where equipment and dirt needed to be removed. These ditches have been cleared and look good. The operator has regraded some of the ditches that were previously partly blocked.

A portion of CGD-4 still needs to be shotcreted or otherwise stabilized. Mr. Pappas told me he has let out a contract for the work and that it should be done shortly. It should definitely be completed before the monsoon season starts. A severe thunderstorm could cause some severe damage with the ditch the way it is.

b. Sediment Ponds and Impoundments

We could find no outlet to the decant on pond 12B. I would normally recommend that this be fixed, but the pond is soon going to be completely reworked for the Willow Creek operation. In the past, the operator has occasionally pumped the water from ponds, and this could be done if it is necessary to decant the water from the pond.

7. Coal Mine Waste/Refuse Piles/Impoundments

The inspection report for May indicated there are some areas where the edge of the refuse pile was not graded to the side of the canyon. The operator was working to correct this problem during the inspection.

13. Revegetation

I could only find three dyer's woad plants in Hardscrabble Canyon that looked like they might have had mature seed. This is a drastic improvement from past years. There are still several seedlings, though, so it will be necessary to continue eradication efforts this fall and next year.

The whitetop in Crandall Canyon looks like it has been killed, but this plant is very tenacious and may come back. In Sowbelly Gulch and Crandall Canyon, I saw only a few musk thistle plants.

The operator has done a highly commendable job in his attempts to control noxious weeds on the property.

Rains in late May helped the seedlings in Sowbelly Gulch a lot. While there are some areas that may need to be reseeded, most of the area should have adequate vegetation that reseeded will not be necessary. A possible exception is in the canyon that enters Sowbelly Gulch from the east. This area had little vegetation last year, so it was gouged, seeded, and mulched again in 1995. There appears to be little vegetation coming in. Soil samples taken from the area did not indicate any problems. We will have to continue to monitor the area and see if remedial action is needed.

18. Support Facilities/Utility Installations

The operator has removed part of the conveyor that leads from Adit No. 1 across the Price River. The portion that actually crosses the river should be removed soon. This will require positioning a crane in some areas not within Amax's disturbed area. The areas involved are disturbed, however, mostly from

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previous mining operations or the railroad. Mr. Hess and I told the operator we would not consider this activity as a violation and that we would not require the operator to include these areas in the permit area. The performance standards will apply, and the operator will need to use the "best technology currently available" to prevent additional contributions of suspended solids to streamflow. There are some areas where the operator may want to use silt fences or straw bales to prevent sediment from being added to the Price River.

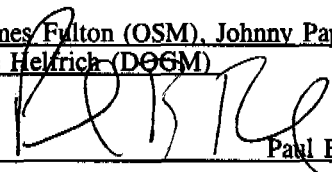
The portions of the conveyor that have been removed are being temporarily stored in the extreme northwest part of the disturbed area at the preparation plant. This is near the gate that leads to the Price River Water Improvement District property. The area is not designated for equipment storage. Although the area is normally considered the edge of a road where sediment is not necessarily treated, any runoff coming from the area now would go pond 11. The operator is very pressed for space because of the Willow Creek construction activities, and we consented that temporary storage in this area could be allowed as long as proper drainage control is maintained. The operator said he may still want to use these conveyor sections, so he does not want to scrap them. Options we discussed include moving the conveyor sections to an equipment storage area in Barn Canyon, revising the plan and designating the area for equipment storage, and scrapping the conveyor sections.

On the way to the gate at the northwest part of the disturbed area, we passed a manhole for a water line that probably is the responsibility of PacifiCorp. When we first passed it, it was not leaking, but when we returned, it had started leaking. There have been many similar problems in the past, and they have sometimes caused problems with the berm along the Price River. Amax needs to have the responsible party repair the line.

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: July 8, 1996