

0035



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: April 4, 1996, 9:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Date of Last Inspection: March 6, 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. Box 449, Helper, Utah
Type of Mining Activity: Underground X Surface Prep. Plant X Other
State Officials(s): Paul Baker
Company Official(s): Johnny Pappas
Federal Official(s): None
Weather Conditions: Partly Cloudy, Windy, Rain Showers, 50'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.

Table with 5 columns: Item, EVALUATED, N/A, COMMENTS, NOV/ENF. Rows include categories like PERMITS, SIGNS AND MARKERS, TOPSOIL, HYDROLOGIC BALANCE, EXPLOSIVES, DISPOSAL OF EXCESS SPOIL, PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES, SLIDES AND OTHER DAMAGE, CONTEMPORANEOUS RECLAMATION, BACKFILLING AND GRADING, REVEGETATION, SUBSIDENCE CONTROL, CESSATION OF OPERATIONS, ROADS, OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES, SUPPORT FACILITIES/UTILITY INSTALLATIONS, AVS CHECK, AIR QUALITY PERMIT, BONDING & INSURANCE.

INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

Page 2 of 2

PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/004

DATE OF INSPECTION: April 4, 1996

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

1. Permits, Change, Transfer, Renewal, Sale

Amax Coal Holding Company has applied for a permit transfer from Amax Coal Company. According to correspondence received with the application, there would be a series of asset transfers and other transactions. Eventually, the permittee would again be Amax Coal Company. On April 26, 1996, the Division determined the application to be administratively complete and advised Amax Coal Company and Amax Coal Holding Company to proceed with public notice.

On April 9, 1996, the Division approved amendment 96B effective February 20, 1996.

13. Revegetation

I helped the operator's contractor's crew select locations for planting containerized seedlings along the main channel in Sowbelly Gulch. We planted chokecherries, serviceberries, curleaf mountain mahogany, Wood's rose, and elderberries. The channel is basically a trapezoidal shape, and we planted the seedlings at the corners on the bottom of the channel. The operator has contracted to have the seedlings watered once a week for the first summer unless there is adequate rain that watering is unnecessary.

The nursery that sold the seedlings was not able to give more than general information about the source of the seed from which the seedlings were grown. All of it was from Utah except the seed for the chokecherries which came from Washington.

When we were hiking up the canyon, we flushed out about 10 deer. I was concerned the deer would quickly eat the seedlings, but this apparently did not happen.

The permittee needs to soon begin weed control operations to control dyer's woad and whitetop. Depending on the weather, these plants are usually in the right stage to be sprayed around the end of April or first part of May.

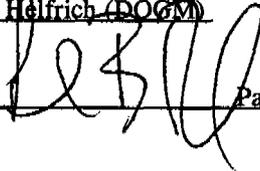
18. Support Facilities/Utility Installations

At the preparation plant, a conveyor truss was placed outside the disturbed area boundary. Although this was a violation, the operator moved it inside the disturbed area during the inspection. (This was no easy task. They had to tram a crane to the site, hook up and move another truss, then move the one that was outside the boundary. Altogether, it took about two hours--at a cost of \$400 an hour for the crane.) I couldn't see that there was any harm done to the place outside the disturbed area where the truss had been placed. I felt a violation was unnecessary since the operator quickly resolved the problem.

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: April 29, 1996