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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: January 11, 1996, 9:00 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.
Date of Last Inspection: December 15, 1995

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 and Ben Grimes
Federal Official(s): None
Weather Conditions: Partly Cloudy, Cold, Windy, Patchy Snow
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 4 columns: EVALUATED, N/A, COMMENTS, NOV/ENE. Rows include: 1. PERMITS, CHANGE, TRANSFER, RENEWAL, SALE; 2. SIGNS AND MARKERS; 3. TOPSOIL; 4. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE; 5. EXPLOSIVES; 6. DISPOSAL OF EXCESS SPOIL/FILLS/BENCHES; 7. COAL MINE WASTE/REFUSE PILES/IMPOUNDMENTS; 8. NONCOAL WASTE; 9. PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES; 10. SLIDES AND OTHER DAMAGE; 11. CONTEMPORANEOUS RECLAMATION; 12. BACKFILLING AND GRADING; 13. REVEGETATION; 14. SUBSIDENCE CONTROL; 15. CESSATION OF OPERATIONS; 16. ROADS; 17. OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES; 18. SUPPORT FACILITIES/UTILITY INSTALLATIONS; 19. AVS CHECK (4th Quarter-April, May, June)_(date); 20. AIR QUALITY PERMIT; 21. BONDING & INSURANCE.



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(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

1. Permits, Change, Transfer, Renewal, Sale

The Crandall Canyon reclamation plan was approved on January 10, 1996. The approval letter says the plans are acceptable and adequate for incorporating into the Castle Gate Mine Plan and are approved. While there are some deficiencies in the plan, they are not of the magnitude that prevents the Division from approving the plans. The deficiencies need to be corrected, and Division Order DO94A is still considered to be in effect. Amax needs to respond to the deficiencies by February 9, 1996.

Amendment 95H was received and approved December 28, 1995. This was for the addition of a 0.25 acre area to the Willow Creek Refuse Removal Project.

Amendment 95G, referred to in the approval letter as 95F, was approved December 18. This amendment was for some field adjustments to the Willow Creek Refuse Removal plan.

2. Signs and Markers

As noted in the December inspection report, disturbed area markers have been painted in Gravel, Crandall, and Hardscrabble Canyons. Markers have been moved in Gravel and Hardscrabble Canyons to more closely follow the disturbed area maps. I did not have the maps with me, but, as far as I could tell, the markers were properly placed. They should be checked against the maps.

4. Hydrologic Balance

a. Diversions

The outlet of culvert CGC-4 leads into a high density polyethylene (HDPE) culvert that diverts water directly into pond 13. Amax has had trouble with the HDPE culvert disconnecting from the corrugated metal culvert and also with the pieces separating. A new angled (30°) piece has been attached to the corrugated metal culvert, and the top and bottom portions of the HDPE culvert were buried to help keep it in place. Also, the connecting point between the metal and HDPE culverts was reinforced, and roof bolts and wires were used to anchor it.

The December inspection report said Amax needed to begin very soon to extend diversion CGD-7 on the edge of the newly-placed refuse. A channel has been excavated, but it does not yet match the design in the plan. The design in Table 3.4-21 says the grouted portion of CGD-7 should have a bottom width of five feet, side slopes of 3h:1v, depth of 1.71 feet, and a D₅₀ of 21 inches. This design is larger than what is shown in Appendix 3.4J for the grouted portions of this diversion. I believe the operator intends to grout the channel, so the riprap size may not apply, but the channel did not appear to be wide enough. Grouting would be done in the spring when the weather is warm enough.

Some additional work has been done on HCRD-1 in Hardscrabble Canyon. I believe the channel now conforms with the design in the plan, but there is one small section that Mr. Pappas felt needed some additional work.

A small additional area has been disturbed to the northeast of the Willow Creek Refuse Removal area. The operator dug a ditch around the area to divert water into the large "pond" created by the project. This activity was approved in amendment 95H.

6. Disposal of Excess Spoil/Fills/Benches

The operator has completed removing refuse from the Willow Creek Refuse Removal site, but there is a layer of spoil about six-feet thick that needs to be removed to expose the coal. The spoil would not be considered "excess" spoil because it would be used for final reclamation of the Willow Creek Mine. This type of situation is regulated by R645-301-553.200. We discussed placing this material between the refuse

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removal area and Willow Creek and also adjacent to the road near the trailer. I feel that placing it between the refuse removal area and the creek would not require an amendment to the plan before doing it, but

placing it near the highway would require prior Division approval. If some of the material is placed between the refuse removal area and the creek, Amax should provide maps showing where the material is placed, but they would not need to be submitted before it actually happens.

On January 16, 1996, Mr. Grimes telephoned me, and we talked about testing the material for potential acidity or toxicity. It should be tested for, at a minimum, acid-base potential, pH, boron, water-soluble selenium, electrical conductivity, and sodium adsorption ratio. Since there is a possibility the material includes a buried A horizon, Mr. Grimes agreed the company might as well test for all soil parameters, including nutrients and texture.

7. Coal Mine Waste/Refuse Piles/ Impoundments.

The refuse pile has been shaped in such a way that I believe water will drain from it.

13. Revegetation

On January 10, 1995, the Division received notification of an apparent seed law violation. The letter from the Department of Agriculture was for seed sold to Minchey Digging that was supposed to be seeded in channel areas. Although some of the seed was planted, most of it was either returned to the vendor or buried after it was seeded. Apparent violations were the presence of quackgrass, a prohibited noxious weed, at the rate of 56 seeds per pound; purity percentages out of tolerance for Basin wild rye, aster, other crop, and inert matter; and germination lower than claimed for slender wheatgrass, Basin wild rye, lupine, yellow sweet clover, purple prairie clover, aster, and western wheatgrass.

16. Roads

The road near the Price River in the area of the unit train loadout has been graded so it slopes toward the northeast. This will better direct runoff into pond 11. This area had been a low spot where water ponded in a mud hole.

On this same road near the gate at the northwest corner of the property, there is one other place where water tends to pond. This area is not used very much but could use some work to get better drainage.

18. Support Facilities/Utility Installations

Buildings in Hardscrabble Canyon have been removed except for foundation and other concrete-type materials that are being used for fill.

Three fuel tanks have been placed in the preparation plant area, but they are empty. Two of them are in an area that is bermed and lined with plastic. Mr. Pappas said there are three layers of the liner. The third tank is not in a bermed area.

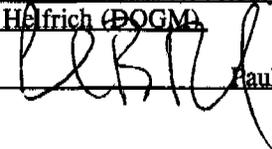
In the past, contractors operating on the Castle Gate property have had SPCC plans for their own temporary fuel tanks. As far as I am aware, Amax does not have its own SPCC plan for the mine. Before any fuel is placed in the tanks, Amax will need to have a certified SPCC plan in place.

Any area at the preparation plant where fuel is being stored needs to be bermed and to have a liner. If there was a spill, fuel could seep through the alluvium into the Price River. In addition, the fuel tanks need to be shown on the surface facilities map.

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: January 17, 1996