

0001



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

Jph

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor
Ted Stewart
Executive Director
Lowell P. Braxton
Division Director

1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
PO Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801
801-538-5340
801-359-3940 (Fax)
801-538-7223 (TDD)

INSPECTION REPORT

Partial: Complete: Exploration:
Inspection Date & Time: December 15, 1997, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Date of Last Inspection: November 4, 1997

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 Surface Prep. Plant Other
State Official(s): Paul Baker
Company Official(s): Johnny Pappas
Federal Official(s): None
Weather Conditions: Mostly cloudy, 20's, about 3" of snow on the ground mostly on north/east-facing slopes
Existing Acreage: Permitted- 7509.5 Disturbed- 61 Regraded- abt. 29 Seeded- abt 29 Bonded- 61
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/ Liability Year)

REVIEW OF PERMIT, PERFORMANCE STANDARDS & PERMIT CONDITION REQUIREMENTS

Instructions

- Substantiate the elements on this inspection by checking the appropriate performance standard.
 - 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.
 - For partial inspections check only the elements evaluated.
- Document any noncompliance situation by referencing the NOV issued at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
- Reference any narratives written in conjunction with this inspection at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
- 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. TOPSOIL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE:				
a. DIVERSIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. WATER MONITORING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. NONCOAL WASTE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. CONTEMPORANEOUS RECLAMATION	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 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 2

PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/004

DATE OF INSPECTION: December 15, 1997

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

1. Permits, Change, Transfer, Renewal, Sale

On December 23, 1997, the Division received an amendment to monitor the slump in Sowbelly Gulch. An engineer has already installed roof bolts and taken cross sections.

3. Topsoil

Although the permittee has worked very hard to identify the best available growth medium, there are a few areas where we saw salt crusts on the soil surface. I will discuss the situation with the Division soil specialist and decide if any action needs to be taken.

4. Hydrologic Balance

b. Sediment Ponds and Impoundments

Pond 9 no longer exists. The main Hardscrabble channel now goes through where the pond was. This pond has already been eliminated from the UPDES permit. The only pond remaining in the permit area is pond 10.

c. Other Sediment Control Measures

Since pond 9 is now gone, all drainage from Hardscrabble Canyon would go to the main channel. Typically, spring snowmelt brings only small flows, and most sediment will settle in the riprap. Two sets of straw bales have been installed in the channel toward the lower end of the reclaimed area, and there is also a silt fence just downstream from the reclaimed area.

Since 1995 when portions of Sowbelly Gulch were roughened, it does not appear there has been any runoff in the channel. The gouges hold nearly all of the water. The same is expected for Hardscrabble Canyon, but the straw bales and silt fence provide extra insurance against water quality degradation.

d. Water Monitoring

We went to Gravel Spring, sampling point B-32, and Mr Pappas showed me where he takes his water samples. He told me samples have previously been taken farther downstream after the water seeps into the alluvium. Therefore, the spring was shown as being dry when it probably had water.

At BM-31, the sampling point is where water is discharged from an abandoned mine. The land owner has built a small impoundment making it impossible to take flow measurements. Since there has been no mining in this area for several years, the flow measurement is not extremely critical. However, it should be taken if possible.

12. Backfilling and Grading

The reclamation contractor has pulled his equipment out of Hardscrabble Canyon for the year. There are still a few places where work needs to be done, including the No. 3 Mine portal area, the parking area across from the No. 3 Mine, Goose Island, and the lower part of the main channel.

13. Revegetation

The reclamation contractor intends to start working again in the spring. Most work should be done in the spring, so he intends to seed then. Spring seedings sometimes work, but it may be necessary to seed again in the fall.

Copy of this Report:

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

Given to: Joe Helfrich (DOGM)

Inspector's Signature:  Raul B. Baker #41 Date: December 31, 1997