



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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INSPECTION REPORT

JX for Joe Helfrich

Partial: Complete: Exploration:

Inspection Date & Time: October 10, 1997, 9:45 AM to 12:30 PM

Date of Last Inspection: September 9, 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: Partly Cloudy, 60's

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/ENE
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 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 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 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 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. SLIDES AND OTHER DAMAGE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 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 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 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"/>

INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

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PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/004

DATE OF INSPECTION: October 10, 1997

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

1. Permits, Change, Transfer, Renewal, Sale

On September 2, 1997, Amax submitted a revised bond estimate to be incorporated in the mining and reclamation plan. This was approved on September 11, 1997. On September 23, 1997, the Division received and accepted a bond rider in the amount of \$1,804,000.00. The rider became effective September 9, 1997.

On October 2, 1997, the Division received a September 17, 1997, letter from Don Ostler of the Division of Water Quality. Outfalls 003 and 009 are now eliminated from the UPDES permit. Pond 3, associate with outfall 003, was part of the Willow Creek Mine and will not be built. Pond 9 is still in Hardscrabble Canyon. To my knowledge, this pond has never discharged, but a discharge now would constitute a violation.

4. Hydrologic Balance

c. Other Sediment Control Measures

Amax is in the process of removing silt fences in the canyon with the No. 4 Mine. This action was approved verbally, and on October 13, 1997, I wrote a memorandum to file documenting that the silt fences may be removed. There is enough vegetation in the area that the silt fences are obsolete. Steve Johnson, former Division hydrologist, had felt for some time that the silt fences were not effective.

As backfilling and grading work progresses, drainage control is being changed so that runoff from smaller areas would go to a sediment pond. For this reason, straw bales and a silt fence have been installed in the main channel in and downstream from the disturbed area. These appeared to be intact and in good repair.

10. Slides and Other Damage

Mr. Pappas told me he is working with a professional engineer to establish a monitoring program at the slump in Sowbelly Gulch. The slump will be monitored for at least a few years to determine whether it is stable.

12. Backfilling and Grading

Backfilling and grading work continues to progress in Hardscrabble Canyon. We discussed several details of the work, particularly near the No. 3 Mine and in the area north of Dog Flat.

13. Revegetation

The mining and reclamation plan allows some flexibility in the species that will be seeded. We discussed including bottlebrush squirreltail and prostrate kochia in the mixes because both of these species are reported to compete well with downy brome. Bottlebrush squirreltail is a native species that will be included at the rate of one pound pure live seed per acre for the entire site. Prostrate kochia is an introduced species, and it should only be used in areas where downy brome is expected to be a problem. These are the area near the No. 3 Mine, especially toward the south; the area north of Dog Flat; and a small knoll near where the scales used to be. The application rate would be 0.5 lbs. PLS/acre.

Changes to the seed mix need to be described in the annual report.

18. Support Facilities/Utility Installations

In 1994, Richard Allison and I tried to find a pumphouse near the bottom of Sowbelly Gulch in the old town of Spring Canyon. We were unable to find it. Using a different map, Mr. Pappas and I were able to find the foundation of the pumphouse and an overflow pipe. Most of the foundation is covered with dirt, but part of it is exposed.

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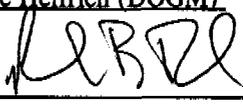
On October 15, 1997, I spoke with Ruben Bera who used to work at the No. 5 Mine. He told me the pumphouse was used until Amax Coal Co. bought the mine from Price River Coal in about 1987. The water was pumped to the mine after being trucked in or collected in a sump.

We had had some question whether the site was a pre- or post-law disturbance, but it seems clear the pumphouse was used after 1977. Mr. Pappas said he will plan to reclaim it next year, and reclamation should be fairly easy.

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: October 30, 1997