



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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INSPECTION REPORT

Partial: Complete: Exploration:

Inspection Date & Time: June 20, 1997, 9:45 AM to 2:30 PM

Date of Last Inspection: May 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 X Surface Prep. Plant X Other

State Official(s): Paul Baker

Company Official(s): Johnny Pappas

Federal Official(s): None

Weather Conditions: Clear, 80'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

- 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. WATER MONITORING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. CONTEMPORANEOUS RECLAMATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. BACKFILLING AND GRADING	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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)

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PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/004

DATE OF INSPECTION: June 20, 1997

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

This inspection report includes a review of the annual report.

1. Permits, Change, Transfer, Renewal, Sale

The Division is in the process of reviewing the amendment separating the Castle Gate and Willow Creek permit areas.

3. Topsoil

The annual report includes results of substitute topsoil sampling in Hardscrabble Canyon.

4. Hydrologic Balance

a. Diversions

The Price area has had greater than normal rainfall over the past month or so, but there is no sign of damage in the diversions, including the main channel in Hardscrabble Canyon. With the summer thunderstorm season approaching, the condition of this unfinished channel is a concern. The contractor doing the reclamation work in Hardscrabble Canyon should be mobilizing the last week of June, and Mr. Pappas told me his first priorities will be to remove noncoal waste in the lower part of the disturbed area and to work on the channels.

8. Noncoal Waste

As mentioned above, the pile of trash in the lower part of the disturbed area should be removed soon. Drainage from the area goes to a sediment pond, and there have been no problems with things blowing outside the disturbed area. The parts of the disturbed area designated for storage of noncoal waste have been or are being reclaimed, and, although the permittee could amend the plan to show this temporary storage area, I do not feel it is necessary as long as the waste is being stored in a controlled manner.

10 Slides and Other Damage

I see no change in the slump area in Sowbelly Gulch. Mr. Pappas intends to set up a monitoring program to see how/if it changes.

13. Revegetation

Amax has made a concerted effort to control noxious weeds, and the number of noxious weeds is at the lowest level I have seen in the six years I have been visiting the site. There is little dyer's woad in Hardscrabble Canyon, and I couldn't see any live whitetop in either Crandall or Gravel Canyon. The amount of musk thistle in Sowbelly Gulch and Crandall Canyon has been greatly reduced, but there are some patches remaining. We found a small patch of whitetop in Sowbelly Gulch near the start of the reclaimed road that used to lead to the water tank. I had never before seen whitetop in Sowbelly Gulch.

While the level of noxious weed infestations is reduced, it will be necessary to continue control efforts for at least the next few years. However, it should not take as much money or time as it has in the past.

I am more encouraged about the prospects for successful revegetation in Sowbelly Gulch although I still think it may be necessary to reseed some areas. The side canyon that joins the main canyon from the east has had little vegetation, but it now looks like this area will have a lot of whitestem rubber rabbitbrush. The slump area where pond 16 was located has a lot of yellow sweet clover, and our experience is that this leads to good grass establishment.

The areas seeded last year in Hardscrabble Canyon continue to grow very well. It looks like they will have good diversity.

INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

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The annual report contains information about some variances from the seed mixes in the plan. These changes were approved verbally and are being reported in the annual report as required in the mining and reclamation plan.

In Sowbelly Gulch, no additional seeding was required, but certain areas were seeded with some one-year-old seed left over from an AML project mixed with seed from seed mix one in the plan.. Areas seeded are shown on a map included in the report.

In the No. 4 Mine area of Hardscrabble Canyon, some seed from seed mix one was spread on about two inches of snow in the upper part of this canyon. Several hay bales were then spread in the area in an attempt to attract elk and deer that would push the seed into the soil.

14. Subsidence Control

Wayne Western, Division engineer, reviewed the annual subsidence report and found it to meet the requirements of the rules and the mining and reclamation plan.

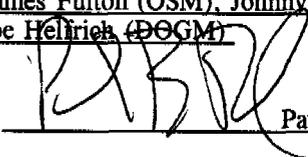
19. AVS Check

Updated AVS information was included in the annual report and is being reviewed.

Copy of this Report:

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

Given to: Joe Helrich (DOGMA)

Inspector's Signature:  Paul B. Baker #41 Date: June 27, 1997