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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

INSPECTION REPORT

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Partial: Complete: Exploration:
Inspection Date & Time: January 3, 1997, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Date of Last Inspection: December 13, 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. Drawer PMC, Price, Utah 84501
Type of Mining Activity: Underground Surface Prep. Plant Other
State Officials(s): Paul Baker and Steve Johnson
Company Official(s): Johnny Pappas and Ben Grimes
Federal Official(s): None
Weather Conditions: Mostly sunny, 40's, about 8" of snow at Goose Island, less at lower elevations
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 (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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. NONCOAL WASTE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9. PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. SLIDES AND OTHER DAMAGE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. REVEGETATION	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
17. OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. SUPPORT FACILITIES/UTILITY INSTALLATIONS	<input 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 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"/>



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(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

4. Hydrologic Balance

a. Diversions

We looked at the upper portion of HCRD-8 in Hardscrabble Canyon with the idea of seeing whether some oaks near the channel would need to be taken out or if they could remain. We did not know whether the channel had been dug to the full depth, but if it has, it does not appear it will be possible to save the oaks. As currently excavated, the bottom of the channel would need to be at least one foot above the base of the oaks.

The contractor doing the construction work has removed his equipment for the winter. Because the channels are unfinished, there could be some erosion in the spring, but we do not expect any major problems. There could be enough erosion that it will require some reconstruction of the channels.

Right now, all drainage from the entire canyon above pond 8 is routed to pond 8. Pond 8 and pond 9 (in series with pond 8) are not designed to handle the runoff from this large of an area. Winter and spring are not normally times when the area has major runoff events, so I don't expect this to be a problem. The situation should be rectified long before the monsoon season in late summer.

Road and Other Drainage Control

We found several problems with drainage control at the preparation plant. At the bottom of the refuse pile haul road, the ditch on the east (uphill) side of the road essentially disappears. Near where the road curves by the refuse bin, there was a dumpster right across where the ditch should have been. The lack of a ditch in this area led to water flowing across the road and a lot of mud.

Ditches CGD-12 and -13 run along road P-1, the main entrance road, toward ponds 12A and 12B. While there were depressions on each side of the road, the ditches had clearly not been maintained. In one place, there was an earthen ramp leading to the top of the berm, and this ramp was blocking the ditch. The ditches have been driven over enough that it was hard to tell exactly where the ditches were supposed to be. The inlet of culvert CGC-9 was partly crushed. In one area along CGD-13 where the railroad was building a hillfiker retaining wall, wire mesh was in the ditch. Other equipment and trash were also found in these ditches.

In the area of pond 11, five piles of railroad rails were partially blocking ditch CGD-14 and one of the pond inlets. The road in this area normally collects some water, and the rails in the ditch and inlet have made the problem of water ponding in the road much worse.

Violation N97-41-1-3, part one of three, was written for failing to maintain the diversions.

b. Sediment Ponds and Impoundments

Pond 12B was being modified and was not functional. There was some water ponding in the area, and any discharge from this pond would go to the newly-built extension of CGC-8 which carries water from undisturbed areas. At the time of the inspection, two silt fences had been put up near the outlet of this box culvert, and by January 8, 1997, a third silt fence had been put near the inlet of the new part of the culvert.

c. Other Sediment Control Measures

To the southeast of the outlet of the old portion of CGC-8, there was a flat area right next to the road, the drainage from which could not be routed to a sediment pond. Some drainage from the road and other nearby areas also goes to this flat area. The operator and/or utility companies were working to install or move some utility lines in this area. Drainage from the flat area was being directed toward the outlet of the old portion of CGC-8, and there was a silt fence right before the drop down to the culvert. (See

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attached drawing.) After passing the silt fence, the water was going down a steep embankment to the outlet of the old portion of CGC-8 which is a diversion that carries water from undisturbed areas. From this point, any water that continued to flow down the diversion would pass through two silt fences (three on January 8) as discussed under "Sediment Ponds and Impoundments" above and as shown in the drawing.

At the time of the inspection, the silt fence where water discharged into the undisturbed drainage diversion was not functional. Water was piping under the silt fence, and the water had a sheen, apparently from petroleum products. Because of the heavy equipment working in the area, it was not surprising to see the sheen.

Having the water pipe under the silt fence wasn't considered too much of a problem because there were two other backup silt fences. However, there was nothing to stop the oil and grease from getting in the undisturbed drainage diversion. We did not see water leaving the disturbed area; it seemed to be ponding in the diversion or perhaps soaking into the ground. Even so, unless something was done to collect the oil and grease getting into this diversion, it would probably eventually end up in the Price River. Mr. Johnson and I considered it a violation to not be treating water from a disturbed area before it entered a drainage meant to carry water from undisturbed areas and to not have an effective treatment for oil and grease before it could potentially leave the permit area. Violation N97-41-1-3, part three of three, was issued for failing to minimize disturbance to the hydrologic balance within the permit and adjacent areas.

7. Coal Mine Waste/Refuse Piles/Impoundments

Water was still piping into the Schoolhouse Canyon refuse pile along ditch CGD-7 (upper) during the inspection. This was the subject of a violation written by Pete Hess. The operator has been trying to fill the hole with bentonite but has not yet been able to solve the problem.

8. Noncoal Waste

We saw uncontained trash in several places in the ditches. In addition, I saw two dumpsters with trash in them; however, the plan does not show any noncoal waste disposal areas. One of the dumpsters was blocking ditch CGD-15. Violation N97-41-1-3, part two of three, was issued for failing to place noncoal waste in a controlled manner in a designated portion of the permit area. Most of the uncontained trash was cleaned up before the end of the inspection, but the dumpsters had not been moved by January 8.

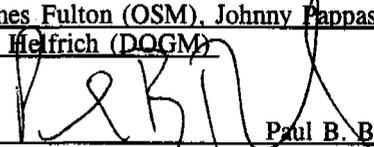
9. Protection of Fish, Wildlife and Related Environmental Values

We saw a few deer in Hardscrabble Canyon and heard several elk. I was at the site a few days earlier and saw about 25 elk and 8 deer. Several bales of hay that were going to be used as a soil amendment have been broken apart and partially consumed.

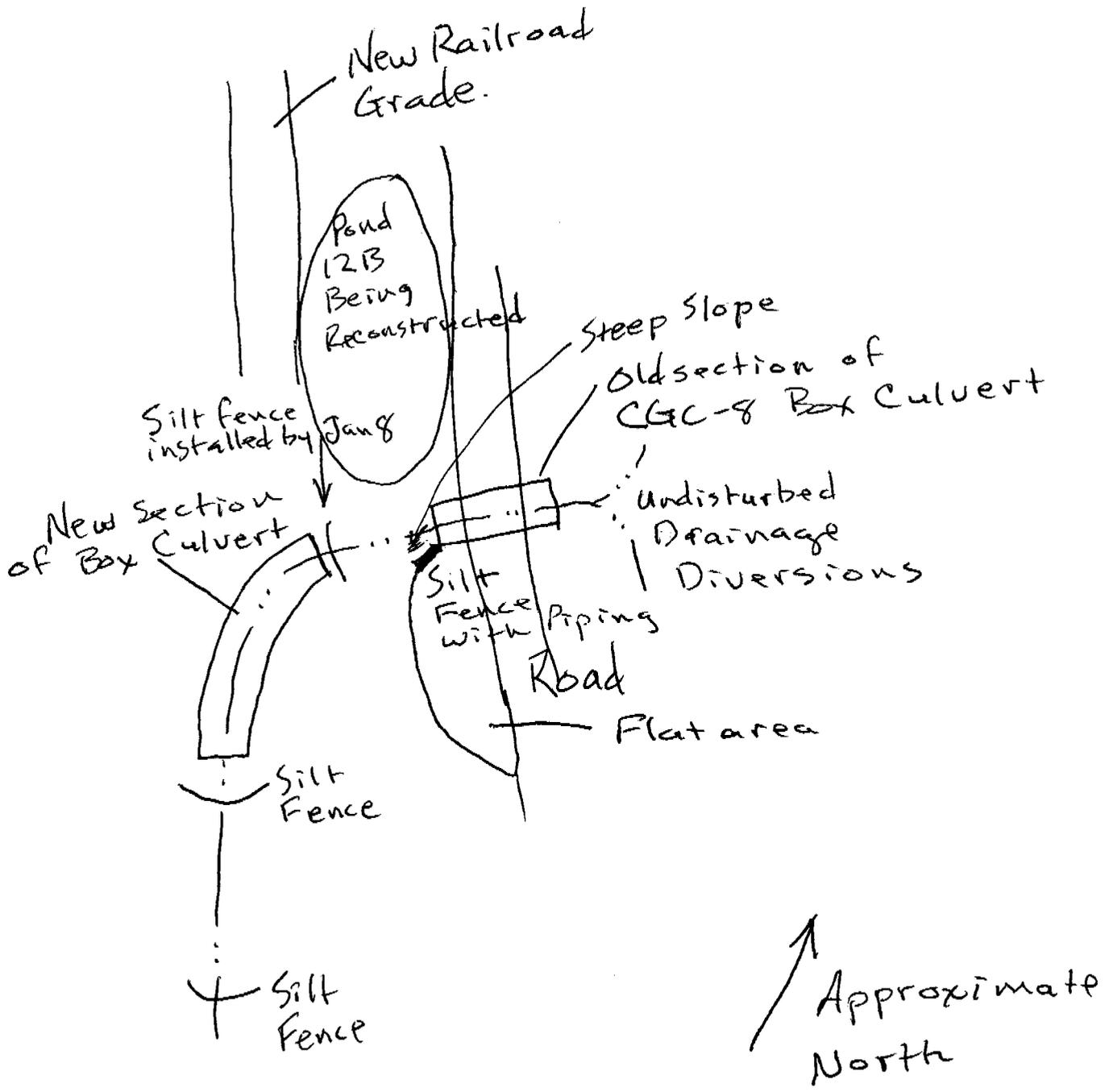
Copy of this Report:

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

Given to: Joe Helfrich (DOGM)

Inspector's Signature:  Paul B. Baker #41 Date: January 10, 1997

Attachment to Inspection Report for Castle Gate Mine, ACT/007/004, January 3, 1997



Paul Baker