



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: October 29, 1998, 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM

Date of Last Inspection: September 4, 1998

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 Other

State Official(s): Paul Baker

Company Official(s): Johnny Pappas

Federal Official(s): None

Weather Conditions: Cloudy, 40'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 (X 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.

	<u>EVALUATED</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>	<u>NOV/ENF</u>
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. TOPSOIL	<input 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 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 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. NONCOAL WASTE	<input 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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 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"/>

INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/004

Page 2 of 2

DATE OF INSPECTION: October 29, 1998

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

1. Permits, Change, Transfer, Renewal, Sale

The permit transfer to Castle Gate Holding Company was approved September 11, 1998.

2. Signs and Markers

Because of the permit transfer, the signs need to be changed. Many of them needed to be changed anyway because of vandalism.

4. Hydrologic Balance

a. Diversions

The area has had a fair amount of rain in the last few months (2.9" in Sowbelly Gulch in six weeks). As discussed in the last two inspection reports, there is an area near HCRD-6 where I have been concerned about material sloughing into the channel and plunge pool. The plunge pool was enlarged, and this strategy seems to be working. We will need to keep watching the area to be sure the plunge pool doesn't have too much material and start contributing sediment.

Several previous inspection reports have discussed some erosion problems in the Goose island area of Hardscrabble Canyon. The operator did some work this past summer to try to correct these problems. A feeder ditch was taken out and the area gouged. The gouges were done perpendicular to the contour, and this has contributed to the worsening of some erosion problems near the main Hardscrabble channel.

The refuse pile was graded so that it is convex and the slope steepens toward the channel. There is a very steep slope going right down to the channel. It appears water comes down the slope, concentrates through the gouged area, and picks up speed coming down the steepening slope toward the channel. On the slope going into the main channel, the refuse is exposed in several areas although it is mixed with soil and rock.

Without completely regrading the area, this may be a difficult situation. The feeder ditch had reduced the problem, but it was silting in and beginning to fail in places. Vegetation has always struggled on this slope, possibly because only about eight inches of soil was used to cover the relatively coarse refuse. Some aggressive plant species, such as intermediate wheatgrass, cicer milkvetch, western wheatgrass, blueleaf aster, wood's rose, and others, might help.

The grading done near the main Goose Island channel seems to be working.

13. Revegetation

In the area that was seeded this past summer, there are quite a few grains and a few other species growing. I am still concerned about how well the summer seeding will work and if there will be weed problems. Most of the curlleaf mountain mahogany planted in the summer appears to be alive, but it looks like there will be mixed success with other transplants.

Other revegetated areas in Hardscrabble Canyon and Sowbelly Gulch continue to progress. The upper part of the canyon with the No. 4 mine has a fair amount of cheatgrass, but the desirable vegetation is doing reasonably well.

16. Roads

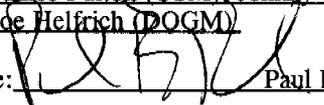
a. Construction/Maintenance/Surfacing

Despite the rain for the past few months, the surface of the road through Hardscrabble Canyon is holding up well. The road was asphalt, and the asphalt was pulverized and used as a road base. I see essentially no sign of erosion.

Copy of this Report:

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

Given to: Joe Helfrich (DOGMI)

Inspector's Signature:  Paul B. Baker #41 Date: December 28, 1998