



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: April 27, 1998, 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM

Date of Last Inspection: March 18, 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 X Other \_
State Official(s): Paul Baker
Company Official(s): Johnny Pappas
Federal Official(s): None
Weather Conditions: Partly cloudy, 50's, a few snow drifts remaining in protected areas
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

- 1. Substantiate the elements on this inspection by checking the appropriate performance standard.
a. 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.
b. For partial inspections check only the elements evaluated.
2. Document any noncompliance situation by referencing the NOV issued at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
3. Reference any narratives written in conjunction with this inspection at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
4. Provide a brief status report for all pending enforcement actions, permit conditions, Division Orders, and amendments.

Table with 5 columns: EVALUATED, N/A, COMMENTS, NOV/ENF. Rows 1-21 list various permit conditions and their evaluation status.

## INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

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PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/004

DATE OF INSPECTION: April 27, 1998

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

#### 4. Hydrologic Balance

##### a. Diversions

The permittee's contractor, Bill Minchey, was working to move channel HCRD-3 to the north. This would put it closer to a natural cliff and farther from a cut thus allowing the cut to be backfilled higher. Although the plan shows the channel going straight down the middle of this side canyon, I believe the modification is beneficial.

##### b. Sediment Ponds and Impoundments

Mr. Pappas told me pond 10 should be cleaned soon. According to the annual certified inspection, the sediment in the pond is at capacity.

#### 10. Slides and Other Damage

We looked at the slump in Sowbelly Gulch, and I could see no signs of change. Water was ponded in it. The permittee has committed to do periodic monitoring to determine whether there are any changes.

#### 13. Revegetation

This was our first chance to see much of the area this spring. I have concerns about the vegetation in some parts of Sowbelly Gulch, but there is continued progress in most of the site. As is common in sites like this, there are areas with solid mats of tiny kochia plants.

In Hardscrabble Canyon, the areas seeded in 1996 look very good. Seeds are germinating in places seeded last year, and most of the shrubs planted last fall are leafing out. We have seen good success with fall, rather than spring, shrub planting.

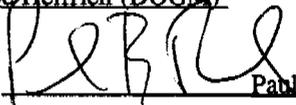
We saw a few musk thistle plants in Sowbelly Gulch, and there were very few dyer's woad plants in Hardscrabble Canyon. It appears dyer's woad has almost been eliminated from this area.

There is a lot of houndstongue in certain parts of Hardscrabble Canyon, and it would be good to control this weed. While houndstongue is not a designated noxious weed, it is poisonous to some livestock.

#### 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: April 28, 1998