



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: January 14, 1999, 12:00 to 1:30 PM
Date of Last Inspection: December 29, 1998

Mine Name: Castle Gate County: Carbon Permit Number: AG 077004
Permittee and/or Operator's Name: Castle Gate Holding Company
Business Address: 847 Northwest Highway 191, Helper, Utah 84526
Type of Mining Activity: Underground X Surface Prep. Plant Other
State Officials(s): Paul Baker
Company Official(s): None
Federal Official(s): None
Weather Conditions: Partly Cloudy, 30's, snow in some 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

- 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 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 checked="" 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 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 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 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 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)

Page 2 of 2

PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/004

DATE OF INSPECTION: January 14, 1999

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

3. Topsoil
4. Hydrologic Balance
 - a. Diversions
12. Backfilling and Grading
13. Revegetation

The designs in the mining and reclamation plan indicate channel HCRD-10 should be a trapezoidal channel one foot deep, four feet wide at the bottom, and ten feet wide at the top. I tried to take measurements of this channel, but it is difficult because of the way it is built. It was installed in about 1984, and it has several large concrete blocks as part of the riprap. The lower part is particularly ill-defined and does not appear to be as deep as it should. Although I attempted to measure the channel depth during this inspection, it will be necessary to make more precise measurements.

The channel configuration has caused some problems in the past but primarily because the sides of the channel were elevated above surrounding areas. The permittee attempted to correct the problem last summer, and I am uncertain whether this remediation will work.

In the bank of the main channel going up from HCRD-10 for about 150 feet and in some areas below HCRD-10, there are several rills that have eroded into the refuse, and there is sediment, including refuse, in the main channel. I have no reason to believe any of this has left the disturbed area since it is a few thousand feet above the lower end of the reclaimed area and since there are straw bales installed at the lower end of the channel.

I believe the main reason for this erosion problem is how the area was graded. The upper portion of Goose Island north of HCRD-10 is convex to the point that it is almost humped. South of HCRD-10, the slope goes down from the undisturbed area to the main channel in nearly a straight line, neither convex nor concave. North of HCRD-10, the slope is artificially steep as it approaches the main channel. I believe water gathers on top then erodes into the soil and refuse as it travels down the increasingly-steep slope toward the main channel.

It appears the Division has given Phase I bond release for the Goose Island area. This is based on the following documents:

- July 17, 1985, letter from Lowell Braxton to Kenneth Hutchinson authorizing bond release and adjustment based on a bond escalation schedule.
- August 7, 1985, letter from Lowell Braxton to Kenneth Hutchinson indicating the Division had failed to notify local government officials of the release and that the advertisement for bond release had not been complete. The permittee would need to readvertise.
- August 13, 1985, letter and copy of bond rider from American Electric Power (the permittee) to the Division reducing the bond in accordance with the July 17, 1985, letter from Lowell Braxton.
- January 21, 1986, letter from Pamela Grubaugh-Littig requiring that the bond amount be adjusted to 1987 dollars according to the revised schedule (bond released) in the July 17, 1985, letter from Lowell Braxton.

There is no letter in the files specifically stating bond has been released, but it can be inferred from this correspondence, particularly the January 21, 1986, letter which allowed bond to be adjusted according to the schedule that would be used if bond was released, that bond was actually released.

INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

Page 3 of 3

PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/004

DATE OF INSPECTION: January 14, 1999

Although the Division has apparently given Phase I bond release, the permittee needs to consider regrading part of the Goose Island area. For Phase II bond release, there must be no contributions of suspended solids in excess of regulatory limits. The Phase III bond release application must include a demonstration that vegetation is adequate to control erosion.

When the vegetation was sampled in 1993, it did not meet the diversity standard primarily because of a lack of shrubs. This may be due to the shallow soil depth not allowing shrubs with deep tap roots to be able to obtain adequate water and nutrients.

At this time, it does not appear the area is meeting the standards of erosion control, vegetation diversity, and sediment control. Moreover, it is very unlikely parts of the area would be able to sustain the postmining land uses of grazing and wildlife without significant erosion problems. I do not believe improvement will occur without intervention, and it appears it will be difficult to obtain final bond release.

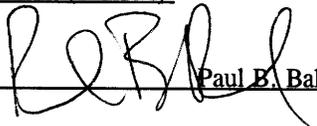
If the permittee decides to try to regrade part of the area, it is essential that they first find soil resources to adequately cover the refuse that would have to be moved. There would also need to be new channel and grading designs.

In the past, at least three people have made semi-quantitative evaluations of the erosion on this site. I intend to make measurements of the specific problem areas this summer to see if these areas meet the erosion requirements for the postmining land use. I also intend to take vegetation measurements and compare these with the data gathered in 1993.

Copy of this Report:

Mailed to: James Fulton (OSM), Johnny Pappas (Castle Gate)

Given to: Joe Helfrich (DOGM)

Inspector's Signature:  Paul B. Baker #41 Date: February 1, 1999