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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

gph

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INSPECTION REPORT

Partial: X Complete: Exploration:

Inspection Date & Time: November 14, 1995 9:00 am to 2:30 pm

Date of Last Inspection: 10/19/95

Mine Name: Gordon Creek Mines 2, 7 & 8 County: Carbon Permit Number: ACT/007/016

Permittee and/or Operator's Name: Mountain Coal Company

Business Address: P.O. Box 591 Somerset, Colorado 81434

Type of Mining Activity: Underground X Surface Prep. Plant Other

State Official(s): David W. Darby, Susan White

Company Official(s): Dan Guy

Federal Official(s): none

Weather Conditions: clear, cool, mild temperatures

Existing Acreage: Permitted-2289 Disturbed-17.2 Regraded- Seeded- Bonded-17.2

Increased/Decreased: Permitted- Disturbed- Regraded- Seeded- Bonded-

Status: Exploration/ X Active/ Inactive/ Temporary Cessation/ Bond Forfeiture

Reclamation (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/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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. OTHER SEDIMENT CONTROL MEASURES	<input 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 checked="" 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 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 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/007/016

DATE OF INSPECTION: 11/20/95

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

GENERAL COMMENTS

Since reclamation activities began, weekly inspections/observations have been conducted at the minesite by Sue White or David Darby. Weather conditions have been exceptionally dry and warm in the region providing favorable reclamation opportunities at Gordon Creek Mines #7 and #8. Canyons at the minesite have remained cooler because of the altitude and shading from the steep canyon walls. During the evenings the tempers drop below freezing and thaw during the day. Snowmelt from the late October snowstorm have made the roads at the minesite muddy. A lack of snow during November has allowed some areas of the mine to dry out some. The upper portion of the canyon remains wetter at Mines #7 and #8. The muddy conditions are exacerbated by heavy equipment moving about.

12. BACKFILLING AND GRADING

Backfilling is continuing at #7 and #8 mines. Dan explained that most of the fill material has been placed at the #8 mine, Some of the fill has to be pulled up of the slope and placed in the cut.

During this inspection one frontend loader was operating, loading the only dumptruck running. The truck was dumping fill material at the #7 Mine. A dozer had pushed some of the fill up against the highwall at #7 mine. We inspected the area along the base of the highwall where fill had been pushed up against it. We found that the fill material was not compacting in areas behind the chainlink fence which hangs down the the highwall. We requested that the fence be removed so it would not interfere with the backfilling process and pointed out that burying it now would help ensure deeper burial, so it will not be exposed in the future. Dan pointed out an area on the east end of the highwall, where slabs of rock were being held back cables and the fence. He stated he did not want to remove the fence in that area while equipment was working the area. We agreed but identified other areas where the fence should be removed. Another safety concern are the boulders that hang above the highwall which could dislodge as equipment is working below. We was asked if something could be done to mitigate the potential hazard. Dan stated that a trackhoe could possibly be used to push the boulders down.

We observed that the dozer activity had pushed several feet of fill material up against the highwall, and that compaction was not taking place to the degree needed to ensure maximum stability at the edge. I indicated to Dan that the contractor should now place the material along in lifts that could be compacted by the trucks and dozer as they spread the material out. The lifts should be placed parallel to the face of the highwall and work the lifts out toward the toe of the slope to ensure compaction.

3. Topsoil

The topsoil stockpile for the #8 Mine is being moved to gain access to the rest of the subsoil for the #7 mine. Two trackhoes were moving the topsoil pile. A temporary plastic culvert had been placed in the diversion channel and the topsoil is being stored over the culvert and placed against the hill.

Hydrologic Balance

4b. Sedimentation Pond

Water is being pumped from pond 7a for reclamation activities. The level of the pond water was very low. Runoff still reports to ponds #7a and # 2.

The three (in series) reclamation phase sedimentation ponds have been constructed. Dan is currently developing as-built designs for the ponds. The surveys have been completed. The spillways were installed as construction was taking place. The spillways have been ripped and grouted. During the inspection it was noted that grout cover is thin in some area and that placing the grout in the cold weather may have caused freezing and affected its cementing ability. Because of the nightly freezing temperatures, it may be impractical to pour more grout. We decided to evaluate its holding capabilities in in the spring to determine if more grout is necessary.

Copy of this Report:

Mailed to: James Fulton (OSM/Denver), Paige Beville (MCC)

Given to: Joe Helfrich (DOGM)

Inspector's Signature: David W. Darby David W. Darby #47 Date: 11/20/95