0013

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: June 21, 1995 11:00 am to 3:30 pm
Date of Last Inspection: 05/18/95

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 Officials(s): David W. Darby
Company Official(s): Dan Guy
Federal Official(s): none
Weather Conditions: clear, mild temperatures
Existing Acreage: Permitted-2289Disturbed-17.2Regraded-_ 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

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.

	EVALUATED	N/A	COMMENTS	NOV/ENF
1. PERMITS, CHANGE, TRANSFER, RENEWAL, SALE	[X]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]
2. SIGNS AND MARKERS	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
3. TOPSOIL	[X]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]
4. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE:				
a. DIVERSIONS	[X]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]
b. SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS	[X]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]
c. OTHER SEDIMENT CONTROL MEASURES	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
d. WATER MONITORING	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
e. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
5. EXPLOSIVES	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
6. DISPOSAL OF EXCESS SPOIL/FILLS/BENCHES	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
7. COAL MINE WASTE/REFUSE PILES/IMPOUNDMENTS	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
8. NONCOAL WASTE	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
9. PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
10. SLIDES AND OTHER DAMAGE	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
11. CONTEMPORANEOUS RECLAMATION	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
12. BACKFILLING AND GRADING	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
13. REVEGETATION	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
14. SUBSIDENCE CONTROL	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
15. CESSATION OF OPERATIONS	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
16. ROADS:				
a. CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/SURFACING	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
b. DRAINAGE CONTROLS	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
17. OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
18. SUPPORT FACILITIES/UTILITY INSTALLATIONS	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
19. AVS CHECK (4th Quarter-April, May, June)_____(date)	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
20. AIR QUALITY PERMIT	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
21. BONDING & INSURANCE	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/015/015 DATE OF INSPECTION: 06/21/95

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

GENERAL COMMENTS: The Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM) submitted a new set of drawing to the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) which reduce the slopes on highwall benches and moved the head of slope uphill to reduce the amount of highwall to better simulate approximate original contour (AOC) . These actions were taken to mitigate concerns in connection with the Ten Day Notice 94-020-352-03 issued by the Office of Surface Mining (OSM).

Mountain Coal Company has applied for a reclamation permit for this mine site and a review was conducted and completed on March 31, 1995 which outlined deficiencies in the backfilling and grading portion of the application. The mine has been idle since November 1990. The operator is still operating under the operation plan, although portals were sealed in December 1990. The highwall issue is still under review.

2. Signs and Markers

All signs and markers are properly posted at the site.

3. Topsoil

Henry Sauer was on site on June 13, 1995 with Dan Guy to analyze the suitability of soil piles for reclamation.

Hydrologic Balance

4b. Sedimentation Pond

High runoff flows not present during the past few years is now seen in the channels and as sheet flow over the minesite. All the flow draining down Gordon Creek is routed through both sedimentation ponds,# 7a and #2. The control valve metering flow through pond #7a was turned down restricting the outflow so that the pond started to fill. At the same time the lower pond, #2 was functioning well and contained some water with substantial reserve. Although pond #7a was almost completely full to its discharge capacity, it had not discharged. The increased volume caused wet seepage areas to appear along the foot of the sedimentation pond. The soil at the foot of the embankment was moist but, no piping occurred and no coalesced flow had occurred.

I talked with Dan Guy to mitigate the situation. The discharge pipe was opened to allow flow from pond #7a to discharge to pond #2. Pond #2 filled but as of this report had not discharged. Dan is checking the pond to see if and when it discharges so that water quality samples can be collected. Pond #7a is now drawn down.

Pond #7a would not have overflowed it's banks. It would have filled to the 25 year-24 hour overflow discharge pipe the flowed into pond #2. The structure appears intact and no rills or slumping has taken place. With the time frame the company is working towards for mine reclamation, these ponds could be removed this summer (and replaced with another pond).

Copy of this Report:
Mailed to: Donna Griffin (OSM), Paige Beville (MCC)
Given to: Joe Helfrich (DOGM)

Inspector's Signature: David W. Darby #47 Date: 06-27-95