



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: March 3/29 & 30, 95 9:30 am to 12:30 pm
Date of Last Inspection: 02/12/95

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): None
Federal Official(s): None
Weather Conditions: Clear, sunny, snow on ground
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

- 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: Item, EVALUATED, N/A, COMMENTS, NOV/ENF. Rows include: 1. PERMITS, CHANGE, TRANSFER, RENEWAL, SALE; 2. SIGNS AND MARKERS; 3. TOPSOIL; 4. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE; 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; 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)

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PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/015/015

DATE OF INSPECTION: 03/29 & 30/95

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

The inspection Snow conditions hindered complete access to the minesite. There was snow on the upper reaches of the pad so access past the sedimentation pond was on foot.

1. Permits, Change, Transfer, Renewal, Sale

A five-year permit review was conducted in 1994. A new permit was issued (effective) on August 28, 1994. It expires on August 28, 1999.

Mountain Coal Company has applied for a reclamation permit for this mine site. The mine has been idle since November 1990. The operator is still operating under the operation plan, although portals were sealed in December 1990. A review of the permit on March 31, 1995 found deficiencies with the reclamation plan. The highwall issue stemming from the Ten Day Notice 94-020-352-03 is still under review. A letter from Ed Kay to The Western Support Center, Albuquerque asked that an onsite technical review of highwalls be conducted. A site visit has been set for April 18 which will initiate an areal review of highwall and approximate original contour evaluations to determine whether there is a programmatic concern with these issues.

A meeting was held on March 22 between Mountain Coal Company and the Division of Oil Gas and Mining (DOGM) to discuss the status of the reclamation plan. The DOGM was in the process of the review which had not been fully completed. Plans were made for DOGM to complete the review and provide comments to the operator by March 31, 1995. The DOGM (particularly Randy Harden) identified potential problems with portal closure and backfilling against high walls and recommended methods form reclamation. Dan Guy will submit new drawing defining highwall reclamation techniques on April 17, 1995.

Mountain Coal Company indicated that would like to commence reclamation operations by August, 1995 if they could get their plans approved by the division and OSM.

A current list of company officers was submitted on October 13, 1994.

2. Signs and Markers

All signs and markers are properly posted at the site.

4. Hydrologic Balance

4a. Diversions

All the diversion structures contained some snow cover. It was difficult to identify their transport and holding capability, however, no water was flowing off of the minesite.

NOV #N94-45-1-1 was finalized on March 14, 1995, the civil penalty for the violation amounted to \$130.00 and final point assessment totaled 13.

4b. Sedimentation Pond

Pond inspections were conducted on ponds 7a, #2 and Sweets ponds on Nov. 16, 1994. Annual pond certification was conducted on Nov. 16, 1994. All reports identified stable conditions for the ponds. Sedimentation Pond #2 contained some water. Small amounts of water from melting snow was trickling into the pond. The pond still had sufficient capacity in the pond to contain a large runoff event. No water was discharging from the ponds.

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: 4/12/95

INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

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4c. Water Monitoring

All water monitoring was complete for the 4th quarter of 1994. First quarter, 1995 data results have not been returned. Mountain Coal Company had contracted last quarters water monitoring to EIS.

NPDES monitoring was checked for the 4th quarter of 1994 and 1st quarter of 1995. Monitoring and reporting is current for 1994. The 1st quarter monitoring was conducted, but the results were not in, The monitoring was conducted by EIS, Mel Coonrod.

14. Subsidence Monitoring

Subsidence monitoring was last conducted Nov., 4 and 11, 1994. Changes in subsidence are indicate at stations 25 (9ft), 26 (3.4 ft) and 27 (3.4 ft). This information will be evaluated in a review for subsidence related effects.

A meeting was held with Steve and Pete Stamatakas to review their assertion that water sources in Beaver Creek area have dried up or have been reduced. They expressed their opinion that mining by Beaver Creek Coal Company's, now controlled by Mountain Coal Company, mining has intercepted springs and streams in the Beaver Creek drainage.

Specific sites were not identified because their observations could not be located with accuracy on a 7.5 minute map. A meeting will take place at the end of May or in June when conditions and schedules allow access into Beaver Creek.

DOGM will evaluate if the claimant's beliefs are in fact the result of mining or trends in the weather pattern related to drought conditions. The first step in the process will be to identify the sources potentially affected. Baseline and water monitoring data will be compared to annual precipitation data and areal runoff from springs and streams in the area of Beaver Creek and Gordon Creek. Conclusions for either impacts of non-impacts will be drafted in a report and submitted to the file and Division management for any action.

21. Bonding and Insurance

Liability insurance is held with CIGNA and runs from 1/01/93 to 1/01/96. Mountain Coal Company maintains a surety bond in the amount of \$641,443.00 for 17.2 acres of disturbed area. The bond number is U269965

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