



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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INSPECTION REPORT

Partial: ___ Complete: X Exploration: ___

Inspection Date & Time: Nov. 1, 9:00-10:00am, Nov. 13, 11:30-2:00pm and Nov. 9, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Date of Last Inspection: September 11, 1996

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, Susan White and Bob Davidson (13th) and Joe Helfrich (19th)

Company Official(s): Dan Guy,

Federal Official(s): None

Weather Conditions: Snow on 11/01, Clear on 11/13 and snow on 11/19

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.

	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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. EXPLOSIVES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. DISPOSAL OF EXCESS SPOIL/FILLS/BENCHES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. COAL MINE WASTE/REFUSE PILES/IMPOUNDMENTS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. NONCOAL WASTE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. SLIDES AND OTHER DAMAGE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. CONTEMPORANEOUS RECLAMATION	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. SUBSIDENCE CONTROL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. CESSATION OF OPERATIONS	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. SUPPORT FACILITIES/UTILITY INSTALLATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. AVS CHECK (4th Quarter-April, May, June) _____ (date)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. AIR QUALITY PERMIT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21. BONDING & INSURANCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



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INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

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PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/016

DATE OF INSPECTION: November 1, 13 and 19, 1996

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

GENERAL COMMENTS

Reclamation activities continued through the month of November. The site was visited three times during the month. There were several days of rain and snow during the month, however backfilling and seeding continued along the #7 Mine access road..

Dan Guy submitted an updated version of the topsoil amendment to include some of the information requested by Bob Davidson. Another amendment was submitted to identify a new time schedule for the reclamation phase.

November 1

4. Hydrology

With regard to my requests to Dan Guy for ensuring that runoff be treated at the Gordon Creek #2 Mine on October 28, I asked Susan White to check to see if a water bar had been constructed across the access road to Gordon Creek while she was in the vicinity, checking on issues at Horizon Mine. When she returned to the office on October 31, she indicated that she had not seen a water bar constructed in the access road to divert runoff.

With the information provided by Susan, I decided I would have to return to the site to make sure the controls were constructed. I decided to stop by the following morning on my way to Colorado for vacation. At approximately 9:00am I arrived at the site and confirmed that controls were insufficient control and treat runoff from the road and side slope, required by the rules. Dan had installed silt fences, but did not build the water bar to divert runoff. There were three silt fences, two on the north side of the road below the sedimentation pond and one on the south side of the road. I thought that the construction of the silt fences were insufficient to contain flow or control the amount of runoff generated by the road. I went to the Price Field Office where I tried to call Dan Guy, but could not reach him. I gave a Notice of Violation (N96-47-1-1) to Stephanie to mail for me. The NOV was for not containing sediment within the permit area, and required the Consulting Engineer to see that mitigation took place within two days after receipt of the NOV..

November 13

4. Hydrology

I returned to the minesite on November 13 to evaluate the mitigation structures that were suppose to be built. Some of the ditches had been graded and more silt fences had been installed. No water bar had been constructed. Dan had questioned the design of the water bar since, he claimed, could damage the springs on the heavy equipment. I pointed out the a swale approximately 10 to 25 feet could collect water from the road and transmit it to the sedimentation pond. Dan also questioned the development of a cut in the embankment of the sedimentation pond that would erode if water was directed through it.

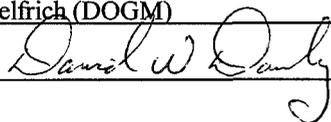
I indicated to Dan that it was my primary objective to ensure runoff was not leaving the site, and that winter conditions were here and unpredictable. I was concerned that the structures could endure the winter conditions and spring runoff. I wanted to ensure that structures were developed that would meet the requirements and completed in the event the heavy storms pushed them off the site.

Copy of this Report:

Mailed to: James Fulton (OSM/Denver), Paige Beville (MCC), Dan Guy (Blackhawk Engineering)

Given to: Joe Helfrich (DOGM)

Inspector's Signature: _____



David W. Darby #47 Date: 11/22/96

INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

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PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/016

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Dan stated the he needed time to get the right equipment to the site that could do the job. I amended the NOV to identify exactly what measures that were acceptable for mitigation, and extended the NOV until November 18, 1996 at 5:00pm.

One of the unfortunate circumstances as far as the Division is concerned is that I was on vacation and could not check on the mitigation when the two day limit was up. This would have ensured that the mitigation would have been completed sooner. As it was, I felt that the mitigation accomplished was borderline and did not site the operation with a Cessation Order only because of the lack of communication while I was gone.

12. Backfilling and Grading

Regrading and backfilling was continuing on the road area below the #7 mine. The slopes look real good. It is almost certain that reclamation activities will not be complete this year. Dan mentioned that they planned to continue operations to the end of the month, or until they are forced out by bad weather.

November 19

Joe Helfrich and I visited the minesite on November 19, 1996. Joe was riding along because he had a meeting at Horizon Mine. We met Dan and looked at the structures and design I had specified to abate the NOV. All the required construction was completed. The silt fences were entrenched and backed with a wire mesh backing to ensure stability. The roadside had been graded to eliminate the barriers that were built up by grading and the ditches were cleaned. The water bar was cut across the road and a trench cut through the upper embankment of the upper sedimentation pond to divert flow from the road to the sedimentation pond.

It had just snowed and equipment had just graded the road. We could see that material pushed up along side the road could result into a problem if left. Also, the grading had knocked off the top of the water bar and made it less efficient. I again suggested that more of a swale be developed where more material would be excavated on the upper end of the water bar. It would be a longer depression which would transmit the water across the road without creating a big depression. It would make the road a little steeper on the upper end, but not enough that it could not be negotiated.

I reminded Dan that this area would need continuous maintenance. He agreed and stated that their intentions were to grade the roads and build up the lower end of water bar when they pulled out over the winter. I filled out the abatement notice the next day and put it in the mail.

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Mailed to: James Fulton (OSM/Denver), Paige Beville (MCC), Dan Guy (Blackhawk Engineering)

Given to: Joe Helfrich (DOGM)

Inspector's Signature: _____

David W. Darby

David W. Darby #47 Date: 11/22/96