

0008



# 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: August 2, 7, 13, 21 10.00 am to 3:00 pm  
Date of Last Inspection: July 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 Official(s): David W. Darby, Joe Helfrich  
Company Official(s): Paige Bevelle, Dan Guy,  
Federal Official(s): none  
Weather Conditions: Warm, clear, sun shining  
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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. OTHER SEDIMENT CONTROL MEASURES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



DR7

## INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/016

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DATE OF INSPECTION: Month of August

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

### GENERAL COMMENTS

Reclamation activities continued through the month of August. The centers of activity continued to be the #7 and #8 mine.

August 2

Joe Helfrich and I met with Paige Bevelle, Dan Guy and Mel Coonrod to discuss issues that have surfaced over the reclamation process and to evaluate the progress of the reclamation work. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct an overview of the operations and obtain an idea of the schedule for continued reclamation. The meeting quickly turned to a discussion of aimed at technical viewpoints and techniques. The operator questioned the Divisions authority in sending several members of the staff to observe activities, then dictating detailed techniques to Dan about the operation. Both Dan and the reclamation contractor felt that the spontaneous visits was changing procedures outlined in the reclamation contract. Paige requested that all contact from staff personnel be established through the inspector. Just days before the Division received informal comments about the spontaneous visits and quickly took steps in establishing visiting protocols which were to be set up through the inspector. This issue was conveyed to Paige at the meeting.

Issues surfaced about the requirements Division staff was enacting at the site, requiring compaction of the fill by rubber tire equipment and designating the method of backfilling. The inspector had required the contractor to build lifts in a concentric pattern parallel to the highwall. Paige expressed concern on behalf of Mountain Coal, since the contractor was claiming that the Division's demands required extra work and time on the project and was submitting a change order to the reclamation contract. Paige demanded to know what authority we had in delineating details in the reclamation construction process. She pointed out that the reclamation manager and contractor were professional and competent in reclaiming the area to meet reclamation standards without intervention from Division personnel.

I explained that our concern was to ensure that maximum compaction took place to meet the desired and designated levels of static safety factors of 1.5 proposed in the mine plan (page 3-39). I stated that lifts compacted parallel to the highwall with rubber tired vehicles yielded one of the best compaction methods. Incidentally, the plan called for compaction using a D7 Cat or larger (page 3-33). Paige asked both Dan and Mel if a static safety factor could be achieved without using rubber tired equipment. They both indicated that it would be difficult to say exactly what static safety factor could be obtained without using rubber tired vehicles or a sheep's foot, but a higher static safety factor could be reached using rubber tired vehicles. Paige, realizing the extra cost involved, directed the reclamation work to continue operating by using rubber tired vehicles to spread and compact the fill material ensure maximum compaction.

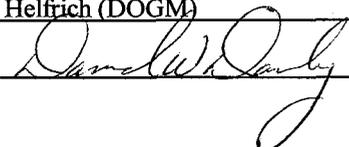
We discussed the coal waste still exposed along the proposed channel in the fill at the #2 site. As discussed prior with Dan and restated for Paige, the coal material must be removed and replaced with other fill material that can be compacted. The coal would provide an unstable loose base. We fear that the coal material will not compact and has a higher chance of eroding if water flows down the channel even when riprap is used. The softer base would allow the rock of the riprap to dislodge.

We identified that suitable topsoil needed to be saved according to the plan to cover the #2 site. Dan had verbally proposed that fill material placed on the #8 mine be tested to see if it was and adequate substitute topsoil. If it had that potential that would allow the topsoil from the #8 mine to be used to supplement the #2 mine area. The samples had been collected, but the test results had not been received by the meeting. We mentioned that a mine plan change would have to be submitted for approval.

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: 09/04/96

## INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/016

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DATE OF INSPECTION: Month of August

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August 7

The field visit revealed that work was continuing on the #7 mine. Some equipment breakdowns had caused some delays. The working equipment was placing the fill material in lifts and compacting the lifts. Sue White had asked me to tell Dan that she wanted to be present when the #8 Mine was reseeded. Dan wanted to reseed the mine with an interim seed mix as soon as possible. I mentioned this to Sue at the office and she said that Dan could reseed with a final mix after August 15, but she wanted to inspect the site prior to reseeding to ensure the surface had been scarified. Dan had started storing substitute topsoil material along the side of the #7 Mine access road. Dan had submitted the results of the substitute topsoil samples. Bob Davidson had reviewed the data and made the finding of suitability for the substitute topsoil. Bob gave his approval to allow the substituted topsoil to be planted with the seed mix.

August 13

Sue White and Bob Davidson accompanied me on the inspection. We evaluated the #8 minesite. The contractor had pocked the reclaimed slope with a trackhoe. Sue and Bob had concerns that the upper north corner had not been disrupted enough. Dan mentioned that he was cautious not to disrupt the upper part of the fill for fear that it could promote slumping. Sue and Bob gave Dan permission to start seeding the #8 minesite and the contractor moved in with the hydro seeder and sprayed the hillside. Work was continuing on the #7 Mine. The substitute topsoil pile had been established with what Dan had calculated to be sufficient material from the #7 Mine and #8 Mine fill material stockpile had been salvaged. Work had begun on excavating the channel below the # 7 Mine.

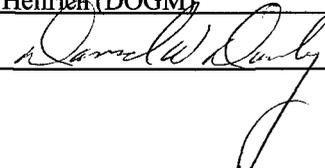
August 21

Conducted a field to evaluate the progress of reclamation. Backfilling and compaction was continuing on the #7 Mine. The rock drain had been backfilled with sand and most of the upper end was covered. Work still needed to be completed where the drain is to be tied into the main channel. The contractor was continuing work on developing the draining channels. No riprap was spread, however the channel was being excavated to grade. Sue White identified the need for a portable toilet. When confronted about this issue, Dan mentioned that the contractor had a trailer which had facilities that could be used.

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Given to: Joe Helfrich (DOGM)

Inspector's Signature: 

David W. Darby #47 Date: 09/04/96