

0009



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

*gdk*

Michael O. Leavitt  
Governor  
Ted Stewart  
Executive Director  
James W. Carter  
Division Director

355 West North Temple  
3 Triad Center, Suite 350  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203  
801-538-5340  
801-359-3940 (Fax)  
801-538-5319 (TDD)

## INSPECTION REPORT

Partial: X Complete:      Exploration:     

Inspection Date & Time: July 2, 15 18, 23, 1996, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Date of Last Inspection: June 20, 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, Susan White, Robert Davidson, and Jesse Kelley

Company Official(s): Dan Guy

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 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 4

PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/016

DATE OF INSPECTION: 08/2, 15, 18 & 23/96

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

GENERAL COMMENTS

Reclamation activities during the first week of the month of July were centered on the #2 mine. Excavators were still digging out the fill material to develop a channel. During the excavation process more coal fines were uncovered than the consultant had originally planned. This situation presents significant ramifications. First, it was originally hoped that the original topsoil or a good substitute topsoil material would be buried in the channel, hopefully the original topsoil that was excavated when the Swisher site was developed. Second, more coal means more fill to clean up to ensure a stable stream channel and embankment.

During the second week the contractor moved the equipment up to the # 7 and # 8 minepad areas. Slumping of the #8 reclamation over the winter required a rework of the site. The upper part of the fill slope on the #8 mine had to be removed, compacted and replaced in lifts. Dan Guy was on vacation during the second week. I called Blackhawk Engineering on July 11 to see if Danna could escort me over the minesite. Dan had previously mentioned that he would try to make someone available if I needed to inspect the minesite while he was on vacation. Everyone seemed to be busy and could not guide me on the site. Danna had called Dan to see what action she should take, and Dan called me from Las Vegas to see if we could set up a meeting on site on July 15. I agreed to that time.

Susan White mentioned that the White Top, a noxious weed, had been identified on the minesite and needed to be removed before its seeds could be distributed. Sue and I visited the site and identified its location on the # 7 mine topsoil stockpile. While at the site Sue mentioned to Dan that the thistle which was abundant over the site needed to be sprayed and the heads removed before they spread also. Dan said that they would get a crew to remove them.

July 15

Jesse Kelley and I conducted an overview of the reclamation activities. I brought Jesse specifically to make a decision on whether the operator needed to backfill a cutslope on the south slope of #2 mine as mentioned in the last inspection report. After analyzing the cut, Jesse decided that the applicant has the responsibility to backfill and revegetate the slope.

At the #2 mine the contractor had pushed the excavated fill (piled from the channel) up against the highwall on the north side of the pad area. This backfill looked well compacted on the western (up canyon) side, but appeared to be filled and then sidecast on the eastern (down canyon) side of the fill. I expressed my concern to Dan about using small lifts. He assured me that lifts were being placed and that the loose looking material was the end of the lifts and would be reworked and built up in lifts as the lower area was filled. The reclamation contractor stated that the fill had been placed in lifts using rubber tired vehicles and sprayed down with a water truck.

Several areas along the excavated channel contained coal waste dumped by Swisher. To ensure stability of the channel, Dan stated that the coal waste would be removed and any holes refilled and compacted. The coal refuse would be used for backfill material at the base of the highwall.

The contractor had moved operations to the #7 and #8 mine. As Dan and I stood at the site I observed one of the excavators being used to build the lift for backfilling, a rubber tired front-end loader was supplying the fill material from the stockpile below #7 minepad. I told Dan that the excavator could not be used to build the lifts because it was not heavy enough to gain the compaction requirements. Dan agreed, then went to talk to the operator. The contracting foreman was not on site at the time, Dan made them stop using the excavator and had them get a dozer on site.

An excavator had dug a trench along the base of the cut slope at the #8 mine and down along the access road to intercept the spring water emanating above the cutslope. The operator plans to construct a drain system to keep the spring from saturating the backfilled material.

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

David W. Darby #47

Date: 08/14/96

INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

Page 3 of 4

PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/016

DATE OF INSPECTION: 08/2, 15, 18 & 23/96

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

The contractor was backfilling #7 mine from the stockpiled fill material. I watched dozer as the operator spread out the fill. A dump truck was transporting the fill from the stockpile to the #7 mine, dumping it for the dozer. The dozer would spread it out. A large lift was being built, but the operator would push the fill over the edge of the large lift creating a sidecast. Part of the side cast material was covering a rock fill that the contractor decided to develop in to help route some of the water produced by the fault through the fill area. I pointed out to Dan that a verbal agreement during the previous inspection called for the contractor to fill the voids of the rock fill with sand and gravel before any earth filling took place to avoid surface settling. I also stated that side casting of the material would not yield the compaction desired for the fill and that lifts should be developed from the bottom and worked up along the whole fill area. Dan stated that the dozer operator would rework the edges of the fill and that lifts were being constructed. He said that he would get an excavator to uncover the area that had been covered in the rock fill and make sure the rock was covered with sand and gravel.

July 18

I revisited the site to check on the progress and to see if some of my concerns were addressed from the last visit. As we drove up to the site I we saw a crew cutting the heads off of the thistle. Dan mentioned that the White Top had been removed from the site.

Activity was centered a the #7 and #8 mines. There had been quite a bit of progress since a few days earlier, the contractor had developed several lifts of fill on #7 mine and compaction looked good. More rock had been placed in the bottom of the site and several truckloads (Dan said at least seven with more to come) of sand and gravel had been dumped into the voids of the rock fill.

#8 mine was backfilled to approximate original contour. The contractor was still working on the collection and drain system. Most of the drain pipe and some of the gravel had been placed, and a pipe installed under the access road which diverted the water toward a cement pool. Due to construction the water had not appeared , but is expected to recharge soon.

July 23

During the Monday morning staff meeting the subject came up whether topsoil was saved when the #8 Mine was reconstructed and whether sufficient topsoil had been saved as soils were separated and moved off the #7 and #8 Mine's fill pile. We thought the best way to resolve the issue was to get Bob Davidson down on site to discuss our concerns with Dan, identify the soils and work out the details in separating soils and providing volume calculations.

Dan stated that topsoil had been removed, piled and then redistributed on the #8 Mine during the reconstruction. Dan indicated that he was concerned with the volumes of topsoil to ensure a good growth medium over the minesite, He asked if it was possible to use the existing fill material that was placed on # 8 Mine as a substitute topsoil. He thought it a better material than material that will be used on #2 and #7 Mines, and in so doing would allow better topsoil to be distributed in other areas. Bob suggested that soil samples be taken to evaluate its quality and potential. Dan and Bob set up date July 25 for Bob to get together with one of EIS's employees to collect the samples.

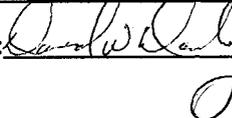
Substitute top soil calculations indicate that 14, 700 cubic yards of material will be required to cover #2 Mine. The MRP indicated that material would come from the access road, the fill material in the channel or a borrow area. Since it was discovered that the material in the channel fill had high concentrations of coal refuse, Bob wanted Dan to specify where the substitute top soil would found. Dan suggested the area along the road above #2 Mine could be used as a source. Bob stated that it would have to be tested and its volume estimated.

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: 08/14/96

INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

Page 4 of 4

PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/016

DATE OF INSPECTION: 08/2, 15, 18, 23/96

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

4. Hydrology  
a. Diversions

Reclamation activities have changed the diversions and routing system. All the runoff is routed to the three new sedimentation ponds. No rain has fallen over the past month, the new ponds remain dry.

b. Sediment Ponds and Impoundments

All ponds were functioning well and no discharges were taking place. Pond #7a exists, but is no longer in use. The springflow that was once diverted to the pond flows over the excavated mine pad, but seeps in and does not show up in any of the lower ponds. The contractor was pumping water from the #2 Pond to use for dust control and compaction, but the water level is very low and they will have to start getting water from Sweets Pond in Gordon Creek.

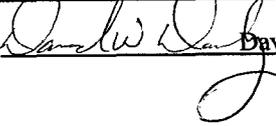
13. Revegetation

Dan wanted to know if they could conduct interim revegetation activities on #8 Mine using the old seed because they thought it was still viable and could get some growth for a mulch before final seeding is conducted. Sue stated that they should wait until August 15 before seeding then they could just plant the new approved seed mix. Sue wanted to be on site during reseeding

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: 08/14/96