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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: June 20, 1996 10.00 am to 3:00 pm
Date of Last Inspection: 05/28/96

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
Company Official(s): Dan Guy contacted by phone for status report
Federal Official(s): none
Weather Conditions: Cool, 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	NO/ENV
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 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 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"/>



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INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/016

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DATE OF INSPECTION: 06/20/96

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

GENERAL COMMENTS

1. Permits, Change, Transfer, renewal, Sale

I met Dan Guy at the Blackhawk Engineering Office. I evaluated the forth quarter monitoring information collected for the Gordon Creek #2, #7, and #8 mines. Reclamation activities were active at the #2 Mine. Several issues were identified during this visit which had to be discussed with Dan Guy. The snow cover had melted on # 7 and #8 mines.

Over the winter hiatus, the fill material on #8 minesite had settled and slumped where material had been pushed up against the cut slope. This left an escarpment of about three feet in some areas. Some settling was expected, however the amount of settling indicates that insufficient compaction is taking place with the method used. Earth work is still planed at the #8 Mine, so no violation was issued. During this inspection I stressed to Dan Guy that backfilling of the cut slopes must be accomplished in lifts of two feet or less, he agreed.. We discussed plans for conducting further backfilling of the #8 Mine. As mentioned to Dan, we want the material above the access road (against the cut slope) pulled down and stacked in lifts on the road. Further filling should be conducted by developing a ramp where material is dumped and spread, then compacted in lifts up against the cut slope.

Seeps were flowing along the base of the fill and at the level of one of the coal seams at the #8 Mine. This is problem area that needs to be captured and drained so that it does will not saturate the fill area and cause instability. Dan stated that he had noticed the potential problem and wants to excavate some of the fill where the seep appears and build a drain using a combination of sorted filter rock and a drain pipe to collect the spring and divert it away from the fill area.

At the #7 minesite large rock has been placed from the cut slope to the grade at the edge of the fill. Dan stated that the rock will act as a drain to collect water that appears along the base of the fault. I informed Dan that the rock structure was not was designed as part of the reclamation plan an could not be considered as a french drain system. I also stated that the large rocks will leave a large interstices that should be filled with finer gravels or material to prevent surface settling. Dan stated that this would be done.

An area on the south slope shows evidence of a cut slope. . The cut slope is not identified on the reclamation map for this area. Dan and I evaluated this area for fill. A cut slope is on a steep side slope. According to Dan, If backfilling is implemented in this area the slope will increase the angle of the total slope or cause the slope to be pushed out creating a change in the channel location. Also, more weight will also be added to the slope and less material will be available for other areas. Dan and I decided to defer this site for remediation until one of DOGM's engineers, who is more familiar with slope stability analysis can evaluate the site and make recommendations.

Excavation of the channel is almost to grade, but continued development will now be moved to the #8 mine. Excavation activities contacted coal waste and non-coal waste in the channel fill from the old Swisher workings. Dan was asked to provide a schedule to project reclamation through the summer.

4. Hydrologic Balance

4a. Diversions

All diversions were clear. No water was flowing over 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 David W. Darby #47 Date: 07/14/96

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(Continuation sheet)

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4b. Sedimentation Ponds

Monthly pond inspections were conducted in the forth quarter by EIS on June 24, 1995, May 29, 1996 and April 14, 1996. The last annual pond inspections were conducted on November 29, 1995. Dan Guy, P.E. found all pond embankments to be intact and stable. Minepad runoff has been diverted away from Pond 7a and now flows across the reclamation site into the new ponds.

There has been no discharge from Pond #2. The reclamation contractor has been using some of the water stored in the pond for dust suppression.

4d.. Water monitoring

Monthly water monitoring activities for the quarter were conducted on June 24, 1996, May 14, 1996 and April 22, 1996. A check of the monitoring data showed that all data was complete and did not indicated abnormal conditions.

4e. Effluent Limitations

Monthly water monitoring for effluent limitations were observed at 001 on the 28th day of the month since January 1996, surveys indicated that no discharges have occurred from the minesite

21. Bonding and Insurance

Mountain Coal Company's bond for Gordon Creek #2, and #8 is secured in the amount of \$641,443.00. It is held by United Pacific Insurance Company and was issued on October 5, 1991.

Insurance coverage is held by the operator for the dates January 1, 1996 to January 1, 1999. The policy number is ISL G1 423156-0 and is issued by Johnson and Higgins of California.

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Inspector's Signature: David W. Darby David W. Darby #47 Date: 07/14/96