



# 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: August 27, 1997

Date of Last Inspection: August 13, 1997

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: Undergroud X Surface      Prep. Plant      Other     

State Officials(s): David Darby

Company Official(s): Dan Guy

Federal Official(s): None

Weather Conditions: Partly Cloudy, no rain

Existing Acreage: Permitted- 2289 Disturbed- 17.2 Regraded- 17.2 Seeded- 17.2 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 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 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 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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)

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DATE OF INSPECTION: August 27, 1997

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

### General Comments

This site visit was scheduled to a follow-up of the issues described in the last inspection report. Bob Davidson accompanied me on the inspection to review the vegetation and regrading work. Mel Coonrod from Environment Industrial Services, Dan Guy, Blackhawk Engineering and Paige Beville, ARCO, were also present to review the site.

#### 1. Treatment of Thistles

Mel's crew had walked the site cutting the stocks and spraying every thistle plant they could find. As I looked around the site, I could not find any plants that had not been cropped.

#### 2. Channel Riprap

The four channels crossing the entry road and #2 Mine pad had been reworked by the contractor's crew. Placement of channel riprap was a concern on a few of the channels, because it appeared that small riprap lined the channels. Dan explained that the channels were lined with larger rock of which the reclamation plan specifies a D-50 of three inches. I am concerned that the smaller rocks can be moved downstream during a storm event. The reworked areas along the channels had been revegetated by hand broadcasting seeds.

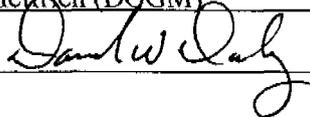
Paige recommended watching the channels to see if they performed properly before jumping to conclusions that the riprap would not hold in place. I agreed to her recommendation, thinking that there is a good chance that the channels could stabilize before another large storm occurs and that mobilizing equipment at this point would destroy a lot of the work.

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: 09/05/97

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(Continuation sheet)

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### 3. Scarifying and Ripping

The contractor had moved in equipment to rip and gouge the road area. I could not tell if the road area had actually been ripped, however a trackhoe had been used extensively to gouge the road. It looked like the surface of the road was sufficiently disrupted to break up any direct flow or runoff over the site.

### 4. Revegetation

The small triangle missed while hydroseeding was seeded along with several sites reworked by equipment.

The site has received more rainfall than normal. This has resulted in good vegetation growth over the site. The area above the #2 Mine, which was planted last year shows exceptional growth. The area on and below the #2 Mine, although planted recently, is showing very good sign of germination. Several willows cuttings were planted along the springs on the #7 Mine access road which have sprouted roots and have grown additional several segments of leaves.

### 5. Rebar

The pieces of rebar previously observed sticking out of the ground were cut and removed.

Overall the site looks good. Mountain Coal Company plans to apply for a Phase 1 bond release. A meeting is scheduled for October 23, 1997 to evaluate the site. At this point none of the concerns noted above would be considered sufficient to deny the application for Phase 1 bond release.

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Inspector's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

David W. Darby #47 Date: 09/05/97