



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 13, 1997
Date of Last Inspection: July 17 and 29, 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: Underground X Surface__ Prep. Plant__ Other_
State Officials(s): David Darby
Company Official(s): Dan Guy
Federal Official(s): None
Weather Conditions: Cloudy, some rain
Existing Acreage: Permitted- 2289 Disturbed- 17.2 Regraded- 17.0 Seeded- 17.0 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

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DATE OF INSPECTION: August 13, 1997

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

General Comments

Paige Beville, ARCO, planned a visit to the minesite, because the contractor had completed regrading and reseeding operations and had pulled off the site. Paige wanted to review the work and get comments from the Division staff. Susan White and Jesse Kelly accompanied me on the inspection to review the vegetation and recontouring work. Dan Guy, Blackhawk Engineering and Andy Gaudielle, ARCO, were also present.

The site review had been scheduled a week before, but several heavy rainstorms at the site caused us to delay the visit. Some intense rainstorms had occurred during the last week. Horizon reported four inches of rain in one storm. The city of Price reported three inches of rain in the same storm. There were indications of heavy rainfall at the site. Rills were noticed on several slopes of reclaimed areas and some riprap lining the channels had been moved downstream. It was unfortunate that such a large event occurred at this point in the reclamation process.

An evaluation of the site revealed that more finishing work was needed at the site. A list was compiled by both parties to ensure all features needing attention were understood and pursued.

1. Treatment of Thistles

Russian thistle plants were growing in the bottom of the channel below the #2 mine pad and on some of the surrounding hillsides. The Division suggested clipping and collecting the flower heads and spraying the plants to ensure future control of the weed. Thistle is highly competitive and can have dramatic impacts on the plant diversity rating needed for final bond release.

2. Channel Riprap

The placement of channel riprap was a concern on a few of the channels crossing the reclaimed area below the #7 Mine access road. Runoff from the heavy storm had moved some of the riprap down some of the channels. This was noticed below Jacob's Pond, the first crossing, the second crossing and the northfork channel. The northfork channel appeared to be the worst for riprap placement and configuration. The operator stated that the contractor would be recalled to replace and reconfigure the riprap in the channels.

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: 09/05/97

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3. Scarifying and Ripping

The access road to the #2 Mine pad had been gouged pocked with a trackhoe as the equipment was moving off the site. We noticed that about half of the surface of the road was still compacted in between the gouged areas. Had the operator gouged deeper with the bucket the road may have broken up more. Because the road was compacted, runoff from the storm encountered less resistance found it easier to travel along the road before it cut down along side a channel.

Paige stated that equipment would be brought back onto the site. The road will be ripped by a bulldozer in 10 ft. sections to break up the surface. A break in the furrow would stop runoff as a single stream to cause rilling. The surface area exposed from ripping will retain more runoff.

4. Revegetation

A small triangle area was missed while hydroseeding. It will be seeded along with the road and channels are reworked and reseeded on the way out.

5. Rebar

About five pieces of rebar are sticking out of the ground from the metal bridge that spanned the spring channel of Jacob's spring. The rebar presents a potential hazard to if it were left in place. Dan stated that the rebar would be cut off below ground level.

6. County Road Turnaround

A wire mesh fence had been installed at the lower end of the reclaimed site where the old gate use to be. A sign identifying the company and operating permits.

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