0018

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: July 17 and 29, 1997
Date of Last Inspection: June 11, 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: Clear, sunny
Existing Acreage: Permitted- 2289 Disturbed- 17.2 Regraded- 12.1 Seeded- 12.7 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
1. Substantiate the elements on this inspection by checking the appropriate performance standard.
   a. 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.
   b. For partial inspections check only the elements evaluated.
2. Document any noncompliance situation by referencing the NOV issued at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
3. Reference any narratives written in conjunction with this inspection at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
4. 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	[X]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
2.	SIGNS AND MARKERS	[X]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
3.	TOPSOIL	[X]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
4.	HYDROLOGIC BALANCE:				
a.	DIVERSIONS	[X]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]
b.	SEDIMENT PONDS AND IMPOUNDMENTS	[X]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]
c.	OTHER SEDIMENT CONTROL MEASURES	[X]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]
d.	WATER MONITORING	[X]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
e.	EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS	[X]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
5.	EXPLOSIVES	[X]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
6.	DISPOSAL OF EXCESS SPOIL/FILLS/BENCHES	[X]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
7.	COAL MINE WASTE/REFUSE PILES/IMPOUNDMENTS	[X]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
8.	NONCOAL WASTE	[X]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
9.	PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES	[X]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
10.	SLIDES AND OTHER DAMAGE	[X]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
11.	CONTEMPORANEOUS RECLAMATION	[X]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
12.	BACKFILLING AND GRADING	[X]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
13.	REVEGETATION	[X]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
14.	SUBSIDENCE CONTROL	[X]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
15.	CESSATION OF OPERATIONS	[X]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
16.	ROADS:				
a.	CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/SURFACING	[X]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
b.	DRAINAGE CONTROLS	[X]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
17.	OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES	[X]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
18.	SUPPORT FACILITIES/UTILITY INSTALLATIONS	[X]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
19.	AVS CHECK (4th Quarter-April, May, June)_____(date)	[ ]	[X]	[ ]	[ ]
20.	AIR QUALITY PERMIT	[X]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
21.	BONDING & INSURANCE	[X]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

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(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

GENERAL COMMENTS

July 17, 1997

I visited the minesite on July 17 to check progress on reclamation activities. There had been several storms in the area a couple weeks prior to this visit and I wanted to see how the ponds, channels, and recently constructed gabion structures were functioning. Dan Guy was busy so he arranged to have me meet with Mike Hubbard from EIS. All regrading and reseeding work has been completed above the #2 mine pad. The cement and steal bridge had been torn down. Originally, the contractor (EIS) planned to blast the bridge, but decided later to dismantle it with a jackhammer mounted trackhoe. Heavy equipment was working on the #2 pad. Dozers were pushing material up the slope from the direction of the channel onto the cutslopes. Backhoes were excavating channels across the pad.. Riprap was piled adjacent to the channels for placement after completion of entrenchment.

July 29

I met Dan on site around noon on July 29, 1997. Recontouring of the #2 Mine pad was complete and the equipment was working on the access road. Most of the access road had been backfilled.. A dozer and one trackhoe were working down by the sedimentation pond back filling the access road, while another trackhoe was developing the channels across the pad. The majority of backfilling and grading was expected to be completed within a week.

The main purpose of the July 29th visit was to establish mitigation procedures for the Notice of Violation on the sedimentation pond. The NOV was the result of short-circuiting of water through the pond.

4b. Sedimentation Ponds and Impoundments

A Notice of Violation was issued on June 17 for short circuiting of the middle and lower cells. The NOV was extended on July 16 , 1997, because there was a mix-up in the mail and the operator did not receive a copy of the NOV listing the problems and the proper abatement procedures for remediation. New dates are August 5, 1997 for submitting mitigation plans and August 20, 1997 for completing remedial construction activities.

July 17, 1997

Only a small flow of water was reaching the sedimentation pond. Approximately 8 gallons per minute were flowing down the main channel. The upper cell contained about a foot of water. Several feet of sediment had accumulated in the upper cell since last winter. The edges of the pond were drying, revealing large mud cracks. Although the leaks were still present, no discharge was taking place. Dan had stated that discharge samples were taken and sent to the lab to be processed.

July 29, 1977

Dan , Mel and I discussed the requirements for mitigating the NOV. The equipment used to backfill the minesite had worked down to the pond area. They expected to have the access road backfilled within the next two days. Expanding the upper cell of the pond had was already part of the mineplan. Dan presented some plans to reconstruct the pond and requested a review of the plans while I was at the site. He wanted verbal approval, if the plans were satisfactory, so work could begin the next day.

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: 07/17/97

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I already had in mind what I expected for the mitigation proposal, so I reviewed the plans. The plans stated the procedures we had discussed for repairing both the cells. The areas of suspected leakage would be over excavated and backfilled with a compactable material mixed with a bentonite . I gave Dan verbal permission to conduct mitigation operations. A copy of the plans was taken back to the Division for insertion into the file. I told Dan to submit complete copies to the Division via the mail.

4c. Other Sediment Control Measures

July 17, 1997

An inspection of the gabion structures revealed that they had been tested by some of the large rainstorms that had hit the area. They had functioned well by trapping sediment in the ponds behind the weir. They had been cleaned out earlier that day. The gradient or the disturbed areas and road yield substantial amounts of sediment when it rains. A continuous maintenance plan is important to ensure water treatment meets runoff standards.

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