



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

gh

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

1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801
(801) 538-5340
(801) 359-3940 (Fax)

INSPECTION REPORT

Partial:\_\_\_ Complete: X Exploration:\_\_\_
Inspection Date & Time: May 23, 1997
Date of Last Inspection: April 28, 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 Official(s): David Darby
Company Official(s): Dan Guy
Federal Official(s): None
Weather Conditions: Clear, sunny
Existing Acreage: Permitted- 2289 Disturbed- 17.2 Regraded- 7.1 Seeded- 7.1 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.

Table with 5 columns: Item, EVALUATED, N/A, COMMENTS, NOV/ENF. Rows include categories like PERMITS, CHANGE, TRANSFER, RENEWAL, SALE; SIGNS AND MARKERS; TOPSOIL; HYDROLOGIC BALANCE; EXPLOSIVES; DISPOSAL OF EXCESS SPOIL/FILLS/BENCHES; COAL MINE WASTE/REFUSE PILES/IMPOUNDMENTS; PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES; SLIDES AND OTHER DAMAGE; CONTEMPORANEOUS RECLAMATION; BACKFILLING AND GRADING; REVEGETATION; SUBSIDENCE CONTROL; CESSATION OF OPERATIONS; ROADS; CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/SURFACING; DRAINAGE CONTROLS; OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES; SUPPORT FACILITIES/UTILITY INSTALLATIONS; AVS CHECK; AIR QUALITY PERMIT; BONDING & INSURANCE.

## INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/016

Page 2 of 2

DATE OF INSPECTION: May 23, 1997

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

### GENERAL COMMENTS

Joe Helfrich and I met Paige and Dan on site. We hiked up to the reclaimed area to assess how the site endured the winter. Jeff Defriest accompanied us strictly to observe the reclamation development. Mel Coonrod, EIS contractor, was there too.

#### 4b. Sedimentation Ponds and Impoundments

Approximately 200 gallons per minute were flowing down the main channel to the sedimentation pond. The upper cell was completely full. Water was flowing over the spillway into the middle cell. I noticed that water was seeping from the upper cell embankment to the middle cell, and that water was flowing over the spillway from the middle cell into the lower cell. At the lower cell all of the flow was flowing into a sink hole in the bottom of the cell. I walked along the channel below the sedimentation pond and noticed the flow entering the channel approximately 200 yards down stream.

By this time, Paige and Dan had left the site so Paige could catch a ride to Colorado. I pointed out the infiltration of pond water to Mel Coonrod, who stated that they had just discovered the problem. Water quality flowing into the ponds and out of the second cell appeared clear. I decided that the situation was not serious enough to write a CO. I realized that mitigation work could not proceed until the water level in the pond declined along with the spring runoff.

Dan was notified of the problem and I told him water quality samples would have to be taken to determine whether effluent standards were being exceeded. I indicated that a violation of short circuiting had occurred, but a notice of violation would not be issued until I contacted Randy Harden to identify the best methods for proper mitigation.

#### 4c. Other Sediment Control Measures

The reclaimed channels were functioning properly. Water was running out of the fault at the #7 Mine, the soil that had broken loose and fell from above the escarpment caused some of the water to spread out over the reclaimed slope. Only small rills were noticed, approximately one inch or less. The rills eventually infiltrated into the soil or ran back into the channel. The small amount of erosion was acceptable. The reclaimed slopes and channels appeared stable. Everyone was happy how the reclaimed slopes looked, and how they had withstood the heavy snows and rains.

The water bar and silt fence structures along the entry road below the hate had been cleaned.

### 5. Explosives

The bridge still remained at the bottom of the #7 Mine access road. Mel Coonrod, the reclamation contractor had proposed to Dan Guy to blast the concrete base since it was too thick to move or break up with equipment. We suggested to Dan that he contact Pete Hess at the Price Office so they could identify the measures required to conduct the blasting.

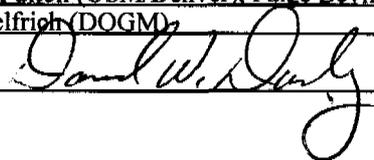
### 13. Revegetation

Signs of vegetation growth appeared on all the reclaimed slopes. Because of the high water year several springs were emanating from the reclaimed escarpment on the #7 Mine access road. The roughened surface helped retain the spring runoff. The operator and contractor took the opportunity to plant willows and aspen cuttings in the moist area, expecting future stands to help protect and stabilize the slope.

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: 06/02/96