



# 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: November 25, 1998  
Date of Last Inspection: October 29, 1998

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, cool  
Existing Acreage: Permitted- 2289 Disturbed- 0 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. SIGNS AND MARKERS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. NONCOAL WASTE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. SUPPORT FACILITIES/UTILITY INSTALLATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

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PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/016

DATE OF INSPECTION: November 25, 1998

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

### GENERAL COMMENTS

I met Dan Guy (Blackhawk Engineering) at the minesite and was surprised to hear that the repairs had been completed in lieu of the time of year and storms that had moved through the area. The site had not received much precipitation during the month of November which allowed the repairs to take place.

A complete inspection was conducted at the Gordon Creek 2, 7 and 8 mines, still functioning under the reclamation plan. I visited the site to conduct the quarterly complete inspection and to check the status of the minesite in connection with the reconstruction measures identified in the Notice of Violation issued October 6, 1998. I had contacted Dan Guy the day before to set a time for the inspection, and he notified me that the contractors had been on site repairing the remaining areas of improprieties

Some of the areas identified for mitigation, such as Jacob's Pond, the coal refuse and some of the channel repairs had been completed by the last inspection of October 25, 1998. Some of the sites identified in the NOV remained unrepaired at the last inspection. They consist of:

- 1- Roughening the areas graded by dozer operator.
- 2- Repair diversion ditches according to design standards.
- 3- Contour roughen (discontinuous) the access road area, the road across the #2 mine pad and the contours on the #2 mine pad.
- 4- Reseed all disturbed areas.

All mitigation repairs mentioned in the NOV are complete as of this inspection. The disturbed area is reset at zero acres, and the reclaimed area is 17.2 acres.

### 1. SIGNS AND MARKERS

As we walked up the access road, I noticed that the fence had been knocked down and partially refitted to the poles. All terrain vehicle tracks trecked up the road, but did not seem to cause much disturbance. All signs and markers were displayed and standing. There is a minesite identification and a "No Trespassing" sign on the fence leading to the property.

### 4. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE:

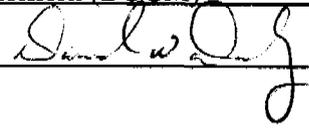
#### a. Diversions

All diversions have been reconstructed. I had particular concerns with the diversion at the top of the access road. During the last inspection the channel appeared shallow at some points. Some deficiencies remained after the last inspection of October 25, 1998. I told Dan that as-built designs needed to be submitted for the diversions, there are no established time frame in the rules, however, the Division usually requires them within 30 days of construction completion.

Copy of this Report:

Mailed to: James Fulton (OSM/Denver), Chris Hansen (CFC), Dan Guy (Blackhawk Engineering)

Given to: Joe Helfrich (DOGM)

Inspector's Signature: 

David Darby #47 Date: February 3, 1999

## INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/016

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DATE OF INSPECTION: November 25, 1998

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### Jacobs Pond

We checked Jacob's Pond embankment again. It had been repaired prior to the last inspection of October 29, 1998. It looked stable and was holding water.

#### b. Sediment Pond

We observed sedimentation pond, upper cell was half full and not discharging. All embankments appeared stable. The last quarterly pond inspection was conducted on September 24, 1998 by Dan Guy. The last annual pond certification was on November 9, 1998.

#### c. Monitoring

Surface water monitoring program is listed in Table 7-17 of the MRP. The second quarter water monitoring was conducted on September 23, 1998 and submitted on September 31, 1998. Third quarter monitoring was conducted on November 18, 1998. Data had not been received from the laboratory by the inspection.

Second quarter water monitoring was conducted on September 9, 1998 and submitted on October 31, 1998. Third quarter water monitoring was conducted on November 18, 1998. No anomalous readings were noted.

#### d. Effluent Limitations

There were no discharges over the spillway during the year to date. There was short circuiting from piping of flows through the lower cell in May. Water samples were taken and no effluent exceedances were recorded.

## 12. BACKFILLING AND GRADING

The work required on the main stream channel embankment had also been completed. The contractor removed soil that remained in the topsoil stock pile and spread it over the coal material then gouged it in to roughen the surface.

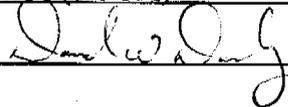
### #2 Mine Pad

The upper portion of the #2 pad had been re-contoured (raked) with a dozer. The raking broke up the previous pattern of furrows that captured water and transported it down the slope to the side channels. Over

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time the furrows had compacted and eroded in the trough, making the ridges of the furrow more pronounced. The regrading pattern meets the requirements for regrading the surface (3). The new contour furrows breakup the pattern of the old furrows giving the surface a real contoured shape and a discontinuous furrow, better for capturing and holding runoff..

**Stream Channel Embankment**

As suggested by Bob Davidson, Dan had the contractor cover the exposed coal refuse with topsoil from the remaining material in the topsoil stock pile above the #2 mine pad. The work on this area had been completed by October 29, 1998. The regrading work conforms to the mitigation standards required for covering the exposed coal refuse.

**13. REVEGETATION**

All reworked areas had been reseeded by hydro-mulch or hand broadcasting.

**14. SUBSIDENCE**

Annual subsidence monitoring was conducted on November 11, 1998. Summaries of the data has not been calculated.

**16. ROADS**

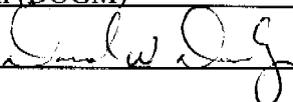
**b. Drainage Controls**

The rock weirs adjacent to the access road, designed to capture sediment from the face of the sedimentation pond and reclaimed hillside had been cleaned and appeared to be functioning well.

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