



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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Michael O. Leavitt  
Governor  
Lowell P. Braxton  
Division Director

## INSPECTION REPORT

Partial:  Complete:  Exploration:

Inspection Date & Time: August 3, 1998

Date of Last Inspection: July 7, 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  Surface  Prep. Plant  Other

State Official(s): David Darby

Company Official(s): Dan Guy

Federal Official(s): None

Weather Conditions: Clear, warm

Existing Acreage: Permitted- 2289 Disturbed- 17.2 Regraded- 17.2 Seeded- 17.20 Bonded- 17.2

Increased/Decreased: Permitted-  Disturbed-  Regraded-  Seeded-  Bonded-

Status:  Exploration/  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	NOVENS
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 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 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. CONTEMPORANEOUS RECLAMATION	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. SUBSIDENCE CONTROL	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. DRAINAGE CONTROLS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## INSPECTION REPORT

(Continuation sheet)

PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/016

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DATE OF INSPECTION: August 3, 1998

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

### General Comments

I met Chris Hansen, Dan Guy and Jim Jacobs, Landowner, on site to discuss some concerns Jim expressed earlier about the existing conditions at the mine. Chris Hansen is now the new contact for environmental compliance at the Gordon Creek 2, 7 & 8 mine. ARCO's U.S. holdings, which included Canyon Fuels Company where Chris works, were purchased by Arch Minerals. New ownership and control information will be forthcoming. Dan Guy is still retained for consulting.

#### 1. Signs and Markers

All signs and markers were displayed and standing.

#### 4. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE:

##### a. DIVERSIONS

The Division received Amendment (AM-98A) from Mountain Coal Company on January 29, 1998 proposing measures to leave the existing 48 inch culvert in the Right Fork of Bryner Canyon. The culvert was installed to provide protection to the stream channel when overburden above an entry caved to the surface. The proposal was reviewed and denied, because there was not sufficient information to ensure that the culvert would continue to function throughout and beyond the bond period. Culverts require maintenance and there was no guarantee that the culvert could be maintained after bond release.

Dan planned to resubmit the Bryner Canyon Culvert amendment. The landowner had not evaluated the culvert until last week. While discussing the culvert issue I asked Mr. Jacobs if he was aware of the ramifications of leaving the culvert in place. He stated that he was aware of its purpose and its required maintenance, and wanted it left in place. Mountain Coal company enlisted the aid of a culvert expert, who has determined that the culvert still has a substantial life expectancy. More information will be submitted by the applicant by July 31, 1998.

#### 12. Backfilling and Grading

Mr. Jacobs observed the roughened road on his trip to the culvert last week. He thought some of the surface had been gouged too much and would not smooth out for grazing within the bond period. He proposed regrading the road area to smooth some of the deep depressions.

#### 13. Revegetation

Mr. Jacobs also proposed that more clover/nitrogen fixing legumes be planted to enhance the soils for the post mining land-use, which is grazing.

Copy of this Report:

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

Given to: Joe Helfrich (DOGMA)

Inspector's Signature: David W. Darby David W. Darby #47 Date: August 24, 1998