



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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INSPECTION REPORT

Partial: Complete: Exploration:

Inspection Date & Time: May 29, 1998

Date of Last Inspection: March 03, 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 cool

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	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 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. REVEGETATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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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(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

General Comments

Dan Guy called the day before to tell me he had been up to the reclaimed minesite and discovered that the lower cell of the sedimentation pond was not holding the runoff that was flowing into it. The pond had a hole in it near the embankment where marmots had dug into the bank. Marmots had been in the area and took up residency near the pond last season. There were other holes in the eastern embankment.

Dan had contacted Environmental Industrial Services to collect water samples to assess discharge quality. We walked from the pond to the creek to check where the water was moving. The water flowing out of the pond appeared clear, it had flowed through the upper two cells of the pond. It traveled underground a couple hundred feet before discharging into the creek.

Dan mentioned he had made arrangements with EIS to come in during the weekend to clear the hole and backfill it with concrete. I thought they should build embankment and block the flow to the hole while they poured the concrete. I also suggested that a silt fence and straw bales be installed in the creek below the discharge to filter any sediment generated during the reconstruction.

I revisited the site on Friday June 5, 1998 and found the repairs to be complete. The lower cell was holding water. There was approximately two feet standing in the cell. Water was flowing into the upper cell and ready to overflow the middle cell. I checked the creek below the pond and did not see any effluent. The concrete had plugged the hole.

No violation was issued because the operator was diligent in reporting the situation, samples were taken, there was no detectable site diminution and the problem was quickly mitigated.

1. Signs and Markers

All signs and markers were displayed and standing. The fence blocking access to the property had been torn down by someone during the winter, however it had been repaired by the time I visited on June 5.

4. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE:

a. DIVERSIONS

Culvert in the Right Fork of Bryner Canyon

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. A review was conducted of the proposal and found to be deficient. The culvert was installed to provide protection to the stream channel when overburden above an entry caved to the surface.

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: June 10, 1998

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The amendment was denied in a letter dated February 17, 1998, because the operator had not supplied sufficient information to insure long term maintenance of the structure and future protection of the channel. A letter was sent on March 18, 1998 instructing the applicant to revise the MRP to include reconstruction and stabilization plans for the channel.

Dan mentioned that Paige Beville and a specialist (name and title unknown) looked at the culvert on Tuesday June 2, 1998 to evaluate the culvert and determine the best way to proceed in resolving the issue.

c. Other Sediment Control Measures

I checked the rock weirs along the road and all had been cleaned out in preparation for spring runoff. There was no flow coming from the hillsides leading to the weirs.

12. Backfilling and Grading

Dan and I hiked over the site to see how the surface withstood the snow cover and runoff. The surface appeared to be in good shape. Vegetation was starting to take hold on the #2 Mine. The channels that were reconstructed last summer after being washed out from heavy rainstorms, appeared intact. Only the main channel and the Right Fork channel were flowing. There was no overland flow, the water flowing in the channels were coming from the springs on site or from the area up Right Fork Canyon.

We hiked up to where the #7 and #8 mine portals use to be. The slumping that appeared at the spring in the mouth of Slide Canyon appeared stable. Some rills still appeared, but no movement had taken place since it first slumped.

Water was flowing over the ridge of the #7 Mine escarpment. A lot of boulders and talus had fallen from the escarpment, which visually helped blend the reclaimed slope and escarpment. The slope and channel appeared stable.

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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: April 2, 1998