



0017 U.S. DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR  
**OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING**  
**Mine Site Evaluation**  
**State Program**



2/007/016  
*Increase Compliance*

1. Permittee/Person <b>MOUNTAIN COAL CO.</b>		9. Permit Number <b>UT-007-016</b>		10. Permit Type <b>PP</b>	
2. Address <b>BOX 380HC 35</b>		11. Field Visit Date <b>08/16/2001</b> mm - dd - yyyy		12. Purpose <b>O</b>	
3. City <b>Helper</b>		4. State <b>UT</b>		13. SRA Present <b>Y</b>	
5. Zip Code <b>84526</b>		6. Phone Number <b>(970) 929-2221</b>		14. Permit Status <b>A</b>	
7. Operator Name, if Different than Permittee		15. Site Status <b>MC</b>		16. Facility Type <b>B</b>	
8. Mine Name <b>GORDON CK. 2, 7 &amp; 8</b>		17. OSM Office # <b>140</b>		18. CCID #	
		19. Land Code <b>F</b>		20. M.S.H.A ID #	
		21. State Abrev. <b>UT</b>		22. County Name <b>CARBON</b>	
		23. AVS Permittee Entity ID Number		24. State Office	

25. Hours		26. Signature Block		27. Reviewing Official:	
<b>4.0</b>	a. Permit Review	<i>Henry Austin</i>		<i>J. Fulton</i>	
<b>2.0</b>	b. Site Visit Time	Signature:		Signature:	
<b>1.0</b>	c. Travel Time	<b>HENRY AUSTIN ID # 116</b>		Review Date: <b>09/14/01</b> mm - dd - yyyy	
<b>1.5</b>	d. Report Writing	Printed Name: <b>9/4/01</b>		Is Supplemental MSE Page Used Y/N <b>Y</b>	
	Date: <b>09/04/2001</b>				

**Permit Type — Item 10** IP = Interim Program, PP = Permanent Program, NP = No Permit

**Purpose Type Codes Item 12**  
 Oxx.... Oversight  
 Axx.... Assistance  
 RFX.... Reclamation Fees  
 Fxx.... Federal Actions  
 CCR.... Citizen Complaint Referral (non site visit)  
 CC.... Citizen Complaint (initial site visit)  
 CCF.... Citizen Complaint Follow-up

**Joint Inspection — Item 13** A joint inspection is when a state inspector accompanies an OSM inspector any time during the review of the mine site.

**Permit Status — Item 14**  
 A.... Active: Coal mining and reclamation activities occurring or permitted but not yet disturbed.  
 IN.... Inactive (Permanent Program Permit): Phase II completed or Temporary Cessation of Operations. (Interim Program Permit) Coal mining completed and reclamation activities initiated.  
 BR... Bond Release: Reclamation completed and State Regulatory Authority (RA) has released all of the bond (Phase III Release.)  
 AB.... Abandoned: All surface and underground coal mining activities have ceased and operator has left the site without completing reclamation as defined in 30 CFR 840.11(g)  
 AB1... Bond Forfeiture: Bond forfeiture officially in process or completed, and reclamation in progress or not yet commenced.  
 AB2... Partially Reclaimed Forfeiture: Forfeited site where all bonds have been used to reclaim site, but site not reclaimed to Program standards.  
 AB3... Reclaimed Forfeiture: Forfeited site that has been reclaimed to Program standards.  
 NA.... Not Applicable: When site is unpermitted.

**Site Status Codes — Item 15**  
 ND... No Disturbance: No coal mining and reclamation operations have been started.  
 EX... Coal Exploration: Coal exploration operations have started and where coal mining operations have not begun.  
 AP.. Active Coal Producing: Coal surface mining activities are occurring.  
 AN.. Active Non-Producing: Active non-producing facility such as tipple or preparation plant.  
 NM.. No Mining: The Permit Status is active, site is not in Temporary Cessation, no surface coal mining activity, and site not regraded.  
 MC.. Mining Complete: No mining activity on site, site regraded and awaiting phase bond release.  
 TC.. Temporary Cessation: The RA has granted cessation of mining pursuant to 30 CFR 816/817.131(b).  
 P1... Phase I Release: At least Phase I bond release granted for entire permitted area. For interim permits, partial bond release.  
 P2.. Phase II Release: At least Phase II bond release for the entire permitted area.  
 P3.. Phase III Release: Reclamation completed and the RA has released all bond.  
 NS.. Non-Site Visit: Status of site not determined.  
 FP.. Forfeiture Pending: The RA is pursuing actions to revoke the permit, collect the performance bond(s), and/or reclamation of forfeited site is in progress.  
 FR.. Forfeited and Reclaimed: Forfeiture reclamation completed.  
 FO.. Abandoned Site: Abandoned site that is permitted but there is no bond.  
 WC.. Wildcat: Coal mining and reclamation operations have or are taking place and the activity is not covered by the required permits from the RA.

**Facility Type Codes — Item 16**  
 A... Surface  
 B... Underground  
 C... Preparation Plant  
 D... Ancillary (Haulroad, Conveyor, and/or Rails)  
 E... Refuse and/or Impoundment  
 F... Loading Facility and/or Tipple  
 G... Stockpiles  
 H... Exploration Permits  
 I... Notice of Intent to Explore  
 J... Exempt 16 and 2/3  
 K... Government Financed Construction Exemption  
 L... Remaining site permitted under 30 CFR 785.25

**Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (SBREFA)**  
**Your Comments Are Important**

The Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman and 10 Regional Fairness Boards were established to receive comments from small businesses about Federal agency enforcement actions. The Ombudsman will annually evaluate the enforcement activities and rate each agency's responsiveness to small business. If you are a small business (a business with 500 or fewer employees including those of affiliates) and wish to comment on the enforcement or compliance activities of OSM, call 1-888-REG-FAIR (1-888-734-3247).

# U.S. DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING

## Mine Site Evaluation

State Program  
Continuation Page

Permittee/  
Person

**MOUNTAIN COAL CO.**

Permit  
Number

**UT-007-016**

Field Visit  
Date

**08/16/2001**

### 28. Performance Standard Categories

Codes: 1=Compliance, 2=Noncompliance, 3=Not Planned, 4=Not Started, 5=Noncompliance Identified Elsewhere, 6=Previously Cited

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <p><b>A. Administrative</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>1</u> Mining within Valid Permit</li> <li>2. <u>1</u> Mining within Bonded Area</li> <li>3. <u>1</u> Terms &amp; Conditions of Permit</li> <li>4. <u>1</u> Liability Insurance</li> <li>5. <u>1</u> Ownership and Control</li> <li>6. <u>3</u> Temporary Cessation</li> <li>7. <u>3</u> AML Rec. Fees -- Non-Respondent</li> <li>8. <u>3</u> AML Rec. Fees -- Failure to Pay</li> </ol> <p><b>B. Hydrologic Balance</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>1</u> Drainage Control</li> <li>2. <u>1</u> Inspections &amp; Certifications</li> <li>3. <u>1</u> Siltation Structures</li> <li>4. <u>1</u> Discharge Structures</li> <li>5. <u>1</u> Diversions</li> <li>6. <u>1</u> Effluent Limits</li> <li>7. <u>1</u> Ground Water Monitoring</li> <li>8. <u>1</u> Surface Water Monitoring</li> <li>9. <u>3</u> Drainage -- Acid-Toxic Materials</li> <li>10. <u>3</u> Impoundments</li> <li>11. <u>1</u> Stream Buffer Zones</li> </ol> <p><b>C. Topsoil &amp; Subsoil</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>1</u> Removal</li> <li>2. <u>1</u> Substitute Materials</li> <li>3. <u>1</u> Storage and Protection</li> <li>4. <u>1</u> Redistribution</li> </ol> | <p><b>D. Backfilling &amp; Grading</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>1</u> Exposed Openings</li> <li>2. <u>1</u> Contemporaneous Reclamation</li> <li>3. <u>1</u> Approximate Original Contour</li> <li>4. <u>1</u> Highwall Elimination</li> <li>5. <u>1</u> Steep Slopes (includes downslope)</li> <li>6. <u>3</u> Handling of Acid &amp; Toxic Materials</li> <li>7. <u>1</u> Stabilization (rills and gullies)</li> </ol> <p><b>E. Excess Spoil Disposal</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>3</u> Placement</li> <li>2. <u>3</u> Drainage Control</li> <li>3. <u>3</u> Surface Stabilization</li> <li>4. <u>3</u> Inspections &amp; Certifications</li> </ol> <p><b>F. Coal Mine Waste (Refuse Piles/Impoundments)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>3</u> Drainage Control</li> <li>2. <u>3</u> Surface Stabilization</li> <li>3. <u>3</u> Placement</li> <li>4. <u>3</u> Inspections and Certifications</li> <li>5. <u>3</u> Impounding Structures</li> </ol> <p><b>G. Use Of Explosives</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>3</u> Blaster Certification</li> <li>2. <u>3</u> Distance Prohibitions</li> <li>3. <u>3</u> Blast Survey/Schedule</li> <li>4. <u>3</u> Warnings &amp; Records</li> <li>5. <u>3</u> Control of Adverse Effects</li> </ol> | <p><b>H. <u>1</u> Subsidence Control Plan</b></p> <p><b>I. Roads</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>1</u> Road Construction</li> <li>2. <u>1</u> Certification</li> <li>3. <u>1</u> Drainage</li> <li>4. <u>1</u> Surfacing and Maintenance</li> <li>5. <u>1</u> Reclamation</li> </ol> <p><b>J. Signs &amp; Markers</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>1</u> Signs</li> <li>2. <u>1</u> Markers</li> </ol> <p><b>K. <u>1</u> Distance Prohibitions</b></p> <p><b>L. Revegetation</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>1</u> Vegetative Cover</li> <li>2. <u>1</u> Timing</li> </ol> <p><b>M. <u>1</u> Postmining Land Use</b></p> <p><b>N. Other</b></p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">General _____</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Performance _____</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Category _____</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">_____ 1) _____</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">_____ 2) _____</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">_____ 3) _____</p> |
|---|--|---|

### Performance Standard Categories 30 CFR Counterpart

<p><b>A. Administrative.....773.11</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Valid Permit.....773.11</li> <li>2. Mining within Bonded Area.....773.11</li> <li>3. Terms &amp; Conditions of Permit.....773.17</li> <li>4. Liability Insurance.....800.60</li> <li>5. Ownership and Control.....778.13</li> <li>6. Temporary Cessation.....842.11(e) &amp; 816/817.131</li> <li>7. AML Rec. Fees -- Non-Respondant.....870.15(b)</li> <li>8. AML Rec. Fees -- Failure to Pay.....870.15(a)</li> </ol> <p><b>B. Hydrologic Balance.....(816/817.41-57)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Drainage Control.....45</li> <li>2. Inspections &amp; Certifications.....49(a)(10)</li> <li>3. Siltation Structures.....46</li> <li>4. Discharge Structures.....47</li> <li>5. Diversions.....43</li> <li>6. Effluent Limits.....42</li> <li>7. Ground Water Monitoring.....41(c)</li> <li>8. Surface Water Monitoring.....41(e)</li> <li>9. Drainage--Acid - Toxic Materials.....41(f)</li> <li>10. Impoundments.....49</li> <li>11. Stream Buffer Zones.....57</li> </ol> <p><b>C. Topsoil &amp; Subsoil.....(816/817.22)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Removal.....22(a)</li> <li>2. Substitute Materials.....22(c)</li> <li>3. Storage and Protection.....22(c)</li> <li>4. Redistribution.....22(d)</li> </ol> <p><b>D. Backfilling &amp; Grading.....(816/817.95-107)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Exposed Openings.....816/817.13, 14, 15, &amp; 823.11 &amp; 21</li> <li>2. Contemporaneous Reclamation.....100</li> <li>3. Approximate Original Contour.....102(a)(1)</li> <li>4. Highwall Elimination.....102(a)(2)</li> <li>5. Steep Slopes (includes downslope).....107</li> <li>6. Handling of Acid &amp; Toxic Materials.....102(c)</li> <li>7. Stabilization (rills and gullies).....95(b)</li> </ol>	<p><b>E. Excess Spoil Disposal.....(816/817.71-74)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Placement.....71(e)</li> <li>2. Drainage Control.....71(f)</li> <li>3. Surface Stabilization.....71(g)</li> <li>4. Inspections &amp; Certifications.....71(h)</li> </ol> <p><b>F. Coal Mine Waste (Refuse Piles/Impoundments) .....(816/817.81-84)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Drainage Control.....83(a)</li> <li>2. Surface Stabilization.....83(b)</li> <li>3. Placement.....83(c)</li> <li>4. Inspections and Certifications.....83(d)</li> <li>5. Impounding Structures.....84</li> </ol> <p><b>G. Use of Explosives.....(816/817.61-68)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Blaster Certification.....61(c)</li> <li>2. Distance Prohibitions.....61(d)</li> <li>3. Blast Survey/Schedule.....62-64</li> <li>4. Warnings &amp; Records.....66 &amp; 68</li> <li>5. Control of Adverse Effects.....67</li> </ol> <p><b>H. Subsidence Control Plan.....(817.121-122)</b></p> <p><b>I. Roads.....(816/817.150-151)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Road Construction.....150(c)</li> <li>2. Certification.....151(a)</li> <li>3. Drainage.....150(b)-151(d)</li> <li>4. Surfacing and Maintenance.....150(e)-151(d)</li> <li>5. Reclamation.....150(f)</li> </ol> <p><b>J. Signs &amp; Markers .....(816/817.11)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Signs.....11(a),(b),&amp;(c)</li> <li>2. Markers.....11(a),(b),(d),(e),&amp;(f)</li> </ol> <p><b>K. Distance Prohibitions.....(761.11)</b></p> <p><b>L. Revegetation.....(816/817.111-116)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Vegetative Cover.....111 &amp; 116</li> <li>2. Timing.....113</li> </ol> <p><b>M. Postmining Land Use.....(816/817.133)</b></p>
--	---

September 4, 2001

Mountain Coal Co.  
HC 35 Box 380  
Helper, Utah 84526

Gordon Creek 2, 7 & 8  
Complete oversight inspection  
August 16, 2001

Participants:

Chris Hansen, Mountain Coal Company  
Dan Guy, Blackhawk Engineering  
Joe Helfrich, Utah Division of Oil, Gas & Mining (DOGGM)  
Karl Housekeeper, DOGM  
Henry Austin, Office of Surface Mining (OSM)

I participated in a complete, oversight inspection of the above mine as indicated. This site was selected for inspection by the joint DOGM/OSM oversight team; and the primary focus of the inspection was to evaluate offsite impacts. Weather conditions were hot and dry, and ground conditions were very dry throughout the areas inspected.

We began the inspection by conducting a records review at Blackhawk Engineering. We reviewed permitting and environmental monitoring information, and all records reviewed were complete and in compliance. The review included: monthly DMR submittals which indicated no discharge; June 28, 2001, surface water monitoring; August 10, 2001, sediment pond inspection report; the most recent permit renewal which expires August 28, 2004; liability insurance is current through July 31, 2002; the final subsidence monitoring was conducted during 1998; vegetation sampling was conducted during 1998 and 2000; and the 2000 annual report was submitted. The permittee will apply for Phase II bond release as soon as practicable. This concluded the records review.

We walked the reclaimed area and made general observations of revegetation success and erosion class. All areas inspected appeared stable and little erosion of any concern was observed. Revegetation and land imprinting are successful, and the vegetation stand is dominated by alfalfa. We discussed the possible use of Holistic Resource Management (HRM) high impact / short rotation grazing to reduce the alfalfa dominance. Perennial grasses, shrubs, and forbs were noted becoming established in the vegetation understory. Elk and deer are utilizing the reclaimed areas extensively for forage, water, and cover / bedding.

Surface water runoff does not appear to be a concern, there is a no discharge history for the sediment pond, pond cells are stable, and no serious signs of scouring in reclaimed swales or out slopes. We discussed possible retention of the sediment pond to facilitate post mining land use(s). The approved water impoundment held water and is being utilized by wildlife. This concluded the inspection.

Please address any questions concerning this inspection report to Henry Austin at [haustin@osmre.gov](mailto:haustin@osmre.gov) or to (303) 844-1400 x1466.