



State of Utah

Department of Natural Resources

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Oil, Gas & Mining

JOHN R. BAZA
Division Director

JON M. HUNTSMAN, JR.
Governor

GARY R. HERBERT
Lieutenant Governor

Representatives Present During the Inspection:	
Company	Dan Guy
OGM	Pete Hess Environmental Scientist III

Inspection Report

Permit Number:	C0070016
Inspection Type:	PARTIAL
Inspection Date:	Tuesday, November 21, 2006
Start Date/Time:	11/21/2006 9:00:00 AM
End Date/Time:	11/21/2006 12:20:00 PM
Last Inspection:	Thursday, September 28, 2006

Inspector: Pete Hess, Environmental Scientist III

Weather: Cold, 40's F. High clouds.

InspectionID Report Number: 1143

Accepted by: whedberg
11/28/2006

Permitee: **MOUNTAIN COAL CO**
 Operator: **MOUNTAIN COAL CO**
 Site: **GORDON CREEK 2, 7 & 8 MINES**
 Address: **HC 35 BOX 380, HELPER UT 84526**
 County: **CARBON**
 Permit Type: **PERMANENT COAL PROGRAM**
 Permit Status: **RECLAIMED**

Current Acreages

179.27	Total Permitted
34.15	Total Disturbed
34.15	Phase I
	Phase II
0.73	Phase III

Mineral Ownership

- Federal
- State
- County
- Fee
- Other

Types of Operations

- Underground
- Surface
- Loadout
- Processing
- Reprocessing

Report summary and status for pending enforcement actions, permit conditions, Division Orders, and amendments:

The Division was notified on November 20, 2006 that the fourth quarter of 2006 water monitoring field / sampling requirements for the Gordon Creek #2, 7 and 8 Mines had been completed.

A Phase II bond release inspection of the site was conducted by Division personnel on September 28, 2006.

Inspector's Signature:

Pete Hess, Environmental Scientist III
Inspector ID Number: 46

Date Wednesday, November 22, 2006

REVIEW OF PERMIT, PERFORMANCE STANDARDS PERMIT CONDITION REQUIREMENTS

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 Not Applicable.
 - b. For PARTIAL inspections check only the elements evaluated.
2. Document any noncompliance situation by reference 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, Divison Orders, and amendments.

	Evaluated	Not Applicable	Comment	Enforcement
1. Permits, Change, Transfer, Renewal, Sale	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.a Hydrologic Balance: Diversions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.b Hydrologic Balance: Sediment Ponds and Impoundments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.c Hydrologic Balance: Other Sediment Control Measures	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.d Hydrologic Balance: Water Monitoring	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.e Hydrologic Balance: Effluent Limitations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 Issues	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16.a Roads: Construction, Maintenance, Surfacing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16.b Roads: Drainage Controls	<input checked="" 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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 and Insurance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22. Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Signs and Markers

The Permittee identification sign located at the down Canyon reclamation perimeter has been vandalized by someone using fluorescent orange spray paint. The Permittee's information is still visible, although the Division did inquire as to the Permittee's correct address; the address listed is the West Elk Mine, in Colorado. The Division requested that Mr. Guy confirm that the posted address is still correct, as most of Canyon Fuel Company's (the parent Company of Mountain Coal Company) business is handled out of the Grand Junction, Colorado office. Mr. Guy indicated that he wants to replace the Permittee identification sign, due to its condition from vandalism.

4.a Hydrologic Balance: Diversions

All of the reclaimed channels are functioning as designed. There are no indications of erosive action.

4.b Hydrologic Balance: Sediment Ponds and Impoundments

There is a three-cell sediment pond at the lower end of the reclamation, and a stock watering pond (Jacob's pond) at the upper end of the reclamation area, near the reclaimed #8 portal area. Mr. Guy indicated that the use of the three-cell unit has been determined as providing potential use for sediment control post-mining. The Carbon County road department has requested that the cells be left in place to control sediment which would otherwise report to the Gordon Creek drainage. Apparently, runoff from a section of County road (which is located north of the Mine site) is reporting to an undisturbed drainage, thence, through the reclaimed area to the three-cell pond. According to Mr. Guy, at least one cell, (the one at the lowest end of the reclaim area) will be maintained relative to sediment storage capacity. It is not known if quarterly or annual inspections of this impoundment will be required by other State regulatory agencies post-Phase III bond release.

4.c Hydrologic Balance: Other Sediment Control Measures

The reclamation area still shows sign of extensive roughening. Vegetation is well established through the area; alfalfa is providing much of the cover and soil stabilization properties. Snow cover varied from five to six inches where it had not completely melted. Some springs were flowing from faults in this area. Water was draining toward the Creek, but there were no signs of erosion.

4.d Hydrologic Balance: Water Monitoring

As noted above, the fourth quarter of 2006 surface water monitoring (sampling, field measurements) for the Mine's permit area has been completed.

4.e Hydrologic Balance: Effluent Limitations

One UPDES outfall remains at this site. 001A, (the sediment pond quantity to Bryner Canyon) is also identified as 2-1-W in the Divisions water monitoring data base.

9. Protection of Fish, Wildlife and Related Environmental Issues

There are two fences constructed on the upper end of the reclamation area which Mr. Guy indicated were built to provide a corridor for stock accessing Jacob's pond. The fences consist of field fence / barb wire with steel "T" post supports. The fences could be a hazard for wildlife in the area if hooves became entangled in the field fence material. Mr. Guy intends to remove the fences as it is no longer necessary to keep domestic stock out of the reclaimed area.

12. Backfilling And Grading

This reclamation area was constructed on a pre-SMCRA site, and as such, a lot of native burden material was destroyed during the construction of the several Mine portal areas, pads, and access roads. Sandstone outcrops which exist above backfilled highwalls and cutbanks blend in very well when compared with outcrops outside of the Mine's disturbed area. All backfilled portal areas appear stable.

14. Subsidence Control

Reclamation activities at this site were initiated in July, 1995. All coal extraction activities ceased prior to that. Hence, any subsidence which may have occurred from secondary coal extraction in the area has long been documented. The Division is not aware of any newly reported affects.

22. Other

The Carbon County road department was surfacing the Gordon Creek road with asphalt material this day. The Canyon which contains the reclaim area sees extensive use by hunters, stockmen, and others who are, technically, trespassing. It is impossible to monitor this remote area. Hence, the prevention of vandalism of signs, fences, and other items relative to the R645 Coal Mining Rules is impossible.