



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

INSPECTION REPORT

027
AK

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor
Ted Stewart
Executive Director
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Division Director

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3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203
801-538-5340
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Partial: Complete: X Exploration:
Inspection Date & Time: 6/29/93 10:00am-12:30pm
Date of Last Inspection: May 25, 1993

Mine Name: Blazon #1 Mine County: Carbon Permit Number: ACT/007/021
Permittee and/or Operator's Name: NAE(Insolvent), no known mailing address
Business Address: Mail cc attn: Steve Tanner, Route#1, Box 146G3, Helper UT 84526 637-5986
Type of Mining Activity: Underground X Surface Prep. Plant Other
State Officials(s): J. Randall Harden
Company Official(s): None., Steve Tanner, Landowner
Federal Official(s): None.
Weather Conditions: Warm, Clear.
Existing Acreage: Permitted- 0 Disturbed- 4.5 Regraded- 2.5 Seeded- 2.5 Bonded- 0
Increased/Decreased: Permitted- Disturbed- Regraded- Seeded- Bonded-
Status: Exploration/ Active/ Inactive/ Temporary Cessation/ X 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 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. OTHER SEDIMENT CONTROL MEASURES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. WATER MONITORING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 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 VALUES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. SLIDES AND OTHER DAMAGE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. CONTEMPORANEOUS RECLAMATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. SUBSIDENCE CONTROL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. SUPPORT FACILITIES/UTILITY INSTALLATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. AVS CHECK (4th Quarter-April, May, June) <u>JUNE</u> (date)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. AIR QUALITY PERMIT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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

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PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/021

DATE OF INSPECTION: June 29, 1993

(Comments are Numbered to Correspond with Topics Listed Above)

1. PERMITS, CHANGE, TRANSFER, RENEWAL, SALE

The site was accessible by vehicle to the mine gate. Entrance to the site is blocked by boulders across the road and is posted as no trespassing. No evidence of any activity or use of the site is apparent.

Alternatives were discussed on the site with the landowner regarding reclamation alternatives utilizing the \$38,000 remaining under bond forfeiture. The landowner indicated that there is currently no intention to utilize the area to the alternate postmining land use as called for in the reclamation plan. The landowner still contends that the site should be reclaimed back to the original pre-mining land use and that all features left in conjunction with the alternate land use be eliminated.

Inactivity of the site and failure of the operator to implement the intended postmining land use upon completion of reclamation activities demonstrates the inability and the unwillingness of the operator to comply with the requirements of the approved mining and reclamation plan. Consequently, the Division has determined that the implementation of the alternate post mining land use has proven unsuccessful and that total reclamation of the site to the premining land use of wildlife and grazing is appropriate.

Failure of the operator to successfully implement the post mining land use results in a grossly inadequate amount of bond required to reclaim the site to the pre-mining land use. A preliminary estimate of the amount of bond required for completion of reclamation to pre-mining land use status has been made by the Division and that monies required for reclamation could be in excess of \$100,000. (See copy of attached memo regarding bonding costs.)

The operator, North American Equities as an entity no longer exists as a viable entity. No resident agent exists for service or processing of notice or other regulatory action. Consequently no violation has been written to serve notice to the operator regarding the inadequate bond amount. In the event that responsible parties involved in the mining operations can be found, the additional bond amount should be sought under bond forfeiture action already taken by the Division.

4. HYDROLOGIC BALANCE

No runoff or water was found flowing in any of the diversions with the exception of Mud Creek. Silt fences and diversions are in need of repair and maintenance as noted during previous inspections.

9. PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES

Cutthroat trout were seen both above and below the disturbed area. No fish were seen within any of the reaches of the channel where reclamation had occurred. It is believed that channelization of the reclaimed portions of Mud Creek and the lack of finer gravels in those reaches makes these areas unsuitable to the fish for spawning. It is apparent however that the reclaimed reaches of the channel are at least passable by fish as they were seen spawning upstream from the site. In the event that additional reclamation work ever occurs at the site, attention should be made to fish habitat in stream channel reconstruction in regard to meanders, pools, and gravel beds.

10. SLIDES AND OTHER DAMAGE

No evidence of deep-seated slides or movement or were noted at the site.

13. REVEGETATION

Musk thistle is prevalent on the site around the water tank and access road to the water tank reclaimed areas. Paul Baker, staff biologist has been to the site and sprayed much of the thistle. The results of the spraying were not conclusive at the time of the inspection but it appears that additional weed control treatments at the site will be necessary.

19. AVS CHECK

AVS review indicates that the permit for the Blazon Mine is still blocked. This check was accomplished by Joe Helfrich as part of the quarterly permit status review of all mining operations. As Previously mentioned, no known entity in which to contact the operator for permitting or enforcement action is known. There is no registered agent to send correspondence or information to. The information on the sign of the mine entrance is useless in any attempt by the Division

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(Continuation sheet)

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PERMIT NUMBER: ACT/007/021

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or other interested party in contacting the operator. The landowner suggested that a sign be placed at the entrance to notify the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining regarding any questions or problems associated with the site. A recommendation to post a sign with the Division's address and phone number will be made.

Note - This inspection report does not constitute an affidavit of compliance with the regulatory program of the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining.

Copy of this Report:

Mailed to: Marcia Petta (OSM) Steve Tanner (Landowner)

Given to: Daron Haddock & Joe Helfrich (DOGM)

Inspector's Signature:



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Date: 7/28/93



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June 17, 1993

To: Lowell Braxton, Associate Director

From: Randy Harden, Sr. Reclamation Engineer 

RE: Blazon Mine Reclamation under Bond Forfeiture, ACT/007/021, Folder #2,
Carbon County, Utah

Summary:

In consideration of reclamation requirements for the Blazon #1 Mine under bond forfeiture, the following analysis and cost information has been provided.

The basis for these cost data is in consideration that the current reclamation work at the site has failed to adequately meet the standard for success for implementation of an alternate postmining land use of light industrial. Since completion of reclamation work accomplished by the operator in 1988, no effort or activity has been observed to implement the alternate post mining land use. Consequently, due the failure of the alternate land use, the site would be required to be fully reclaimed to the pre-mining land use of wildlife and grazing.

Under bond forfeiture, insufficient funds are available to conduct total reclamation to the pre-mining land use. Reclamation of the site will have to be based on utilization of the remaining \$38,000.00 in the forfeiture account. Reclamation costs for total reclamation are provided below in order to establish the priorities for which these funds will be expended.

Analysis:

Reclamation costs are based as individual costs for each item as separate activities. Cost reductions as a result of combining activities, primarily earthwork operations, if they are concurrent would be significant. Costs have been factored to include engineering, inspection and administrative costs associated with reclamation activities. Activities have been listed in order of priority and logical sequence for reclamation activities.



Breakdown of Reclamation Costs by Individual Activities:

1. Water Well. Abandon, test as necessary and plug using a certified water well driller. \$ 1,500.00
2. Culvert Removals. Remove two 72" dia. culverts in Mud Creek and one 24" dia. culvert beneath the mine facilities pad for Little Snyder Drainage, regrade and restore channel, filter blanket material and riprap. \$ 14,000.00
3. Sediment Pond. Backfill and regrade sediment pond, remove spillway structures, resoil backfilled area with outside materials from pond, re-seed and mulch backfilled area (≈ 0.2 acres). \$ 3,500.00
4. Foundations and Structures. Remove concrete building pad, leach field system, and power lines. \$ 5,000.00
5. Mine facilities pad area. Backfill and grade pad area ($\approx 11,000$ YD³), develop borrow area for topsoil cover, resoil backfilled area ($\approx 2,100$ YD³), re-seed and mulch backfilled and borrow area (≈ 1.3 acres). \$ 18,500.00
6. Highwall Elimination. Construct temporary crossing over Mud Creek, remove vegetation, topsoil and cover material from existing reclaimed area earthwork, develop borrow area, transport material and backfill highwall area ($\approx 5,800$ YD³), resoil backfilled area ($\approx 1,200$ YD³), re-seed and mulch backfilled and borrow area (≈ 0.8 acres). \$ 36,000.00
7. Mine Access Road. Regrade and reduce profile from haul road to jeep trail as per pre mining conditions ($\approx 7,200$ YD³), develop topsoil borrow area, resoil backfilled area ($\approx 1,800$ YD³), re-seed and mulch backfilled and borrow area (≈ 1.2 acres). \$ 16,000.00

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8. Stream relocation and restoration. Re establish approximate stream channel gradient in Mud Creek, relocate stream channel with suitable meanders to match upstream and downstream conditions. (\approx 850 ft of channel) Note - this cannot be accomplished unless items 3 through 7 are completed.

\$ 14,000.00

Summary:

Total costs for accomplishing individual reclamation of each of the previous activities total \$108,500. This amount should be considered as a high-end cost for reclamation of the Blazon Mine because these costs were considered as costs to contract and perform each activity separately. A more realistic cost for total reclamation including all of the above activities would be on the order of \$60-80,000.

Recommendations:

In light of the amount of funds that are available to conduct reclamation work under bond forfeiture, it is recommended that items 1 through 5 above be completed to minimize to the best extent possible, safety and environmental related concerns at the Blazon site. The estimated cost for these reclamation activities could be expected to range from \$30,000 to \$45,000. Depending on detailed designs and actual bids for the reclamation work, the scope of work could be increased or reduced to maximize the current amount of funds available to the site for reclamation.

cc: J Carter
D Haddock
M Wright