



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:

OGM	Ingrid Wieser	Environmental Scientist II
OGM	Joe Helfrich	Environmental Scientist III
OGM	Steve Christensen	Environmental Scientist II
BLM	Mike Robinson	
BLM	Chris Conrad	Geologist
Company	David Shaver	Manager
Other	Jeffrey Studenka	Environmental Scientist

Inspection Report

Permit Number:	C0070041
Inspection Type:	TECHNICAL
Inspection Date:	Wednesday, April 29, 2009
Start Date/Time:	4/29/2009
End Date/Time:	4/29/2009
Last Inspection:	Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Inspector: Steve Christensen, Environmental Scientist II

Weather: Winds (0-5 mph), Party Cloudy, 70 deg's F.

InspectionID Report Number: 1991

Accepted by:

Permitee: **WEST RIDGE RESOURCES**

Operator: **WEST RIDGE RESOURCES**

Site: **WEST RIDGE MINE**

Address: **PO BOX 1077, PRICE UT 84501**

County: **CARBON**

Permit Type: **PERMANENT COAL PROGRAM**

Permit Status: **ACTIVE**

Current Acreages

6,114.89	Total Permitted
29.40	Total Disturbed
	Phase I
	Phase II
	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 purpose of the field visit was to evaluate the extent of coal fine material discharged into the C Canyon Drainage downgradient from the West Ridge Mining Facility. Notice of Violation #10033 was issued by the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (the Division) on January 29th, 2009 due to additional sedimentation entering the receiving drainage from Outfall #002.

In attendance were two representatives from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), three representatives from the Division and a West Ridge representative. Those in attendance walked the C Canyon Drainage starting from the mine site to sub-catchment C. At the time of the inspection, sub-catchment's A, C, E and F had been completed and were in operation. The sub-catchments consist of a small settling pond and a weir-like structure equipped with sediment filtration logs.

In addition to inspecting the C Canyon Drainage, Division staff inspected the gob vent hole site (GVH). The GVH site was approved by the Division in November of 2008. During the previous inspection (April 15h, 2009), several sediment control features that had been approved during the permitting process were notably absent. The site was to be covered with gravel, the adjacent drainage was to have energy dissipators every 50 feet and a row of Excelsior logs were to be installed at the toe of the site. Upon inspection of the GVH site, the approved sediment controls were in place and were functioning. The site showed no signs of erosion and was in good condition.

Inspector's Signature: _____

Steve Christensen, Environmental Scientist II

Inspector ID Number: 54

Date

Monday, May 04, 2009

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

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Signs and Markers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Noncoal Waste	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Revegetation	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16.a Roads: Construction, Maintenance, Surfacing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16.b Roads: 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	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22. Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4.b Hydrologic Balance: Sediment Ponds and Impoundments

Sediment basins A and C were observed during the field inspection. Sediment basin A appeared to be functioning. The water retained in the basin was notably black. It appeared that the sediment basin was collecting coal fine material discharging from Outfall 002. The weir-like structure that contained the excelsior, sediment filtration logs were observed. They appeared to be collecting material and were functioning as designed. However, it was noted at sediment basin A that the water was flowing over the top of the sedimentation logs and not through them. Based on the geometry and sizing of the weir-structure that holds the logs in place, it appeared that there was ample room to install more layers of filtering logs if necessary. The water discharging from sediment basin A appeared to be fairly clean in terms of discoloration. No chemical analysis was performed in the field or in the laboratory as a result of this inspection.

Sediment basin C was also observed during the field inspection. As opposed to Sediment basin A, the water retained in basin C displayed significantly less turbidity. The water was fairly clear. The water discharging from basin C did not appear to be transporting coal fine material.

4.c Hydrologic Balance: Other Sediment Control Measures

The gob vent hole (GVH) site was inspected during the field visit. During the April 15th, 2009 field inspection of the site, several sediment control measures approved by the Division during the permitting of the GVH site (November, 2008) were not installed at the site. At the time of this inspection, the sediment control measures (as outlined in the approved plan) were observed on the site, installed properly and functioning. The site had been covered with gravel. Energy dissipater's were installed in the south drainage ditch approximately every 50 feet. Additionally, excelsior logs had been installed in the south drainage channel just above the confluence with the undisturbed drainage channel on the north side of the site.

4.d Hydrologic Balance: Water Monitoring

Representative sampling should include a weekly sample of the mine water discharge at the 002 outfall.

4.e Hydrologic Balance: Effluent Limitations

According to the latest data provided by Jeff Stedenka of the Division of Water Quality, the effluent discharging from Outfall #002 is in compliance for the month of April for both total suspended solids (TSS) and iron. As the Permittee has re-routed the mine water underground, the effluent has exhibited a downward trend and thus has come back into the regulatory requirements outlined in the West Ridge Mine's UPDES permit.

7. Coal Mine Waste, Refuse Piles, Impoundments

The primary reason for the field inspection was to evaluate the extent of coal fine material that had been discharged into the C Canyon Drainage from Outfall 002 (mine water discharge). The inspection consisted of walking the channel from Outfall 002's discharge point to sediment basin C. It was evident that the most excessive accumulations of coal fine material were observed at the outlet of Outfall 002. Areas of accumulation greater than 12" thick were observed in low velocity reaches of the channel. It appears that the heaviest accumulations and most visible impacts from the additional sedimentation are within approximately 1/3-1/2 mile from the outlet of Outfall 002. The reach from Catchment A to Catchment C contained a thin veneer of coal fines along the stream banks, braided areas, lower gradients and pools. Looking down or up stream the water exhibited a black sheen. The substrate in the stream in most places appeared to be clean and void of coal fines and sludge. The areas of deposition along this reach would probably be washed out during the late summer thunder shower periods. A portion of the reach from the outfall 002 to Catchment A would be better served by selective hand brooming and avoiding the vegetation in certain areas. That reach is approximately 1 mile long of which the upper third seemed to be the most heavily impacted by the deposition of the sludge and coal fines.

During the inspection it was noted that vegetation had begun to grow either within the coal fine material or directly adjacent to it in the dry sections of the channel.

9. Protection of Fish, Wildlife and Related Environmental Issues

The continuous discharge of mine water over the past seven years has produced its own vegetative community in the stream substrate and along the banks. From outfall 002 downstream for app. 1/2 mile riparian species of cattail, grasses and sedges can be found. The brooming if accepted should be selective in this area. DOGM biologists have offered to assist Westridge employees in determining which vegetated areas may be sensitive to the brooming method of remediation.

21. Bonding and Insurance

If the catchment structures are to remain for the life of the mine, the permittee would need to permit them and demonstrate that they are adequately bonded. Alternatives include removal of the catchments after a clear demonstration that compliant water quality can be achieved.

22. Other

Since abatement was not achieved "immediately" the language describing the abatement procedures noted in the NOV should be modified accordingly. The NOV should also be modified to include a specific time for implementing compliance measures underground, (pipe installation and rerouting mine water flow) .