




## COLORADO DIVISION OF RECLAMATION, MINING AND SAFETY COAL PROGRAM INSPECTION REPORT



### PERMIT INFORMATION

<b>Permit Number:</b> C-1981-035 <b>Mine Name:</b> King Coal Mine <b>Operator:</b> GCC Energy, LLC <b>Operator Address:</b> Mr Tom Bird 6473 County Road 120 Hesperus, CO 81326	<b>County:</b> La Plata <b>Operation Type:</b> Underground <b>Permit Status:</b> Active <b>Ownership:</b> Federal
	<b>Operator Representative Present:</b>  Wade Wymore
<b>Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)</b>  This report was issued electronically from the Division's Durango Field Office.	

### INSPECTION INFORMATION

<b>Inspection Start Date:</b> August 28, 2013 <b>Inspection Start Time:</b> 10:35 <b>Inspection End Date:</b> August 28, 2013 <b>Inspection End Time:</b> 14:30		<b>Inspection Type:</b> Coal Complete Inspection <b>Inspection Reason:</b> Normal I&E Program <b>Weather:</b> Clear	
<b>Joint Inspection Agency:</b>  None		<b>Joint Inspection Contacts:</b>	
<b>Post Inspection Agency:</b>  None		<b>Post Inspection Contacts:</b>	
<b>Inspector(s):</b>  Marcia L. Talvitie, P.E.	<b>Inspector's Signature:</b>  		<b>Signature Date:</b>  10 September 2013

**Inspection Topic Summary**

NOTE: Y=Inspected N=Not Inspected R=Comments Noted V=Violation Issued NA=Not Applicable

Y - Air Resource Protection

R - Availability of Records

NA - Backfill &amp; Grading

R - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

NA - Explosives

R - Fish &amp; Wildlife

R - Hydrologic Balance

Y - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

NA - Other

NA - Processing Waste

Y - Roads

NA - Reclamation Success

Y - Revegetation

Y - Subsidence

Y - Slides and Other Damage

R - Support Facilities On-site

Y - Signs and Markers

NA - Support Facilities Not On-site

NA - Special Categories Of Mining

R - Topsoil

**COMMENTS**

A complete inspection of the King Coal Mine was conducted by Marcia Talvitie of the Division on Wednesday, August 28, 2013. Skies were clear, and conditions were hot and humid. Wade Wymore was available to represent the operator, GCC Energy, LLC, during the field portion of the inspection.

**AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS – Rule 5.02.4(1):**

- Permitting records were available for review in the office of Tom Bird. SPCC and SWMP plans were available in Wade Wymore's office. A completed DRMS Availability of Records form is attached to this report.

**EXCESS SPOIL and DEVELOPMENT WASTE – Rule 4.09**

Placement; Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization:

- We inspected the permitted valley fill coal mine waste disposal area (refuse pile) located at the King I surface facilities. All of the material previously end-dumped in the yard area south of the bath house had been hauled to the top of the pile and placed.
- The elevation of the refuse is now well above the elevation of the clear water ditch that runs along the north side of the valley. Mr. Wymore said the company is discussing various options for shifting the ditch further up the hillside to allow placement of coal mine waste across the entire width of the valley, as is approved in the design.
- The soil pile stored in the valley immediately uphill of the refuse pile needs to have a perimeter ditch and berm installed to protect the resource, and to direct any runoff away from the natural (clean water) channel and toward the collection channel along the south side of the refuse pile. This work, for which a mini-excavator could potentially be used, must be completed this season, before the snow falls.

**FISH and WILDLIFE – Rule 4.18:**

- At the King II facilities, we observed abundant deer tracks, and even some elk. Mr. Wymore said he has also seen bears in the area.

**HYDROLOGIC BALANCE - Rule 4.05**

Drainage Control 4.05.1, 4.05.2, 4.05.3; Siltation Structures 4.05.5, 4.05.6; Discharge Structures 4.05.7, 4.05.10; Diversions 4.05.4; Effluent Limits 4.05.2; Ground Water Monitoring 4.05.13; Surface Water

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 1Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1

Monitoring 4.05.13; Drainage – Acid and Toxic Materials 4.05.8; Impoundments 4.05.6, 4.05.9; Stream Buffer Zones 4.05.18:

- Mr. Wymore said that the Hay Gulch area had received a great deal of rain in the past several weeks, and that one storm dropped 0.97 inches in just 20 minutes. Heavy rains also fell during the weekend preceding this inspection.
- The King I East and West Ponds each held water, but levels were well below the point where a discharge would occur. The East Pond was green with algae.
- The King II Sediment Pond floor was covered with water for approximately half its length. Pond banks were very well vegetated and stable, and no discharge was occurring.
- Due to the recent rains, populations of Kochia and other annual weeds (Lambs quarters, Ragweed, Marsh elder, etc.) have overtaken most of the ground at King II which had sparse vegetation. Some ditches, and the undisturbed area to the south of the embankment, were covered with these species, which stood 3 to 6 feet in height. Mine personnel had been active in beginning to clear the weeds from the clear water diversion ditches, and Mr. Wymore said their efforts would continue.
- Straw wattles are used throughout the King II area in various collection ditches to slow the velocity of the water and trap sediment before it reaches a drop inlet. Mr. Wymore said they had been changing the wattles more frequently in recent weeks, due to the amount of rain and runoff that had occurred.
- The drop inlets at King II were all inspected, and were found to be in good condition. The inlet is covered by a grate, which is generally surrounded by coarse, angular riprap. The area is then ringed by a double layer of wattles, staked in place.

#### SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

- Significant progress has been made on the two-story building being constructed at King II. The outer “skin” has been nearly all attached.
- The material storage area located at the northern tip of the western branch at King II has been cleaned up, and much of the equipment observed on earlier inspections has been removed. A chain has been installed to limit access. We noted that a few of the items now being stored there were partially covered in grease or oil. The oil storage area is the preferred location for storing equipment that may cause petroleum product contamination.
- Behind the oil storage shed is a small sump pond that collects any runoff from the shed area and allows any oily substance to be trapped before it proceeds to the sedimentation pond through the series of collection ditches. A portion of the adjacent yard and road also drains to the sump pond, and with the recent rains, the sump pond was full of muck. Shovels were on hand, indicating that mine personnel had been attempting to muck out the sump. Mr. Wymore suggested that perhaps the drainage from the road and yard could be diverted to a nearby ditch, so that it does not contribute to filling up the sump.

### **ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE**

No enforcement actions were issued as a result of this inspection, and none are pending.





Photo 1 – Sediment Pond at King II, looking SW



Photo 2 – Weeds growing up in West Clean Water Diversion Ditch, looking north

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Photo 3 – Segment of West Clean Water Diversion where weeds have been removed



Photo 4 – Building construction at King II, looking north

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Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1





Photo 5 – Material storage area at NW end of King II



Photo 6 – Straw wattles in ditch on Belt Portal Access Road

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Photo 7 – Sump pond behind petroleum storage shed



Photo 8 – Drop inlet at King II

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Photo 9 – Equipment storage north of King II substation



Photo 10 – Soil storage pile above Refuse Pile at King I, looking east

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**AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS****PERMIT RECORDS**

DRMS Permit	Yes(Exp.8/18/2017)
Permit Application w/Revisions	Yes
Findings Document	Yes (RN-06)
Insurance Certificate	Yes
Bond Document	Yes
Phased Bond Release Documents/Findings	n/a
Air Emission Permits	Yes
County Special Use Permits	Pending
UG Mining Landowner Notification	Yes
Subsidence Monitoring Reports	Yes
Subsidence Monitoring Data	Yes
Rill & Gully Survey	n/a
Vegetation Monitoring Data	n/a
Specific Variance Approvals	n/a
Annual Reclamation Reports	Yes
Midterm Review Documents	Yes
DRMS/OSM Inspection Reports / Enforcement Actions (3 Years)	Yes
Transfers/Succession of Operator	Yes
Temporary Cessation Notification	n/a
Reclamation Cost Estimate	Yes

**CERTIFICATIONS**

Pond Certifications	Yes
Annual Certifications for Impoundments	Yes (2012)
Fill Certifications for Excess Spoil or Underground Development Waste	
• Quarterly Inspections	Yes
• Compaction Testing	Yes
• Final Certification	n/a
Coal Processing Waste Banks	n/a
Haul Road Certifications	Yes
Access Road Certifications	Yes

**HYDROLOGIC RECORDS**

NPDES Permit	Yes*
NPDES Records	Yes (2013-Q2)
Stormwater Management Plan	Yes
SPCC Plan	Yes
MSHA Pond Inspections	n/a
State Engineer's Pond Inspection	n/a
Quarterly Pond Inspections	Yes (2013-Q2)
Annual Hydrology Reports	Yes (2012)
• Ground Water Monitoring	Yes
• Surface Water Monitoring	Yes
• Spring & Seep Monitoring	n/a
• Mine Water Discharge Monitoring	n/a
• Mine Inflow Study	n/a
• Water Consumption Records	Yes
Well Permits	Yes

**BLASTING RECORDS**

Blasting Publication	n/a
Blasting Records (3 years)	
ATFE Explosives Permit	
Blasting Variances	
Pre-Blast Surveys	

**ADDITIONAL RECORDS (specify)**


**COMMENTS:**

\*The NPDES General Permit for coal mines issued by the CDPHE WQCD expired on June 30, 2013. A letter from WQCD was in the file stating that the mine should continue to operate under the conditions of its expired permit.