




COLORADO
Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety
Department of Natural Resources

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PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1981-035 Mine Name: King Coal Mine Operator: GCC Energy, LLC Operator Address: Mr. Tom Bird 6473 County Road 120 Hesperus, CO 81326	County: La Plata Operation Type: Underground Permit Status: Active Ownership: Federal
	Operator Representative Present: None
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) 	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: November 27, 2017 Inspection Start Time: 15:00 Inspection End Date: Inspection End Time:	Inspection Type: Aerial Inspection Inspection Reason: Normal I&E Program Weather: Clear
Joint Inspection Agency: None	Joint Inspection Contacts:
Post Inspection Agency: None	Post Inspection Contacts:
Inspector(s): Harry B. Ranney	Inspector's Signature:  Signature Date: 11/29/2017

Inspection Topic Summary

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

N - Air Resource Protection

N - Availability of Records

R - Backfill & Grading

R - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

NA - Explosives

N - Fish & Wildlife

R - Hydrologic Balance

Y - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Other

NA - Processing Waste

R - Roads

N - Reclamation Success

R - Revegetation

R - Subsidence

R - Slides and Other Damage

R - Support Facilities On-site

N - Signs and Markers

NA - Support Facilities Not On-site

NA - Special Categories Of Mining

R - Topsoil

COMMENTS

The King Coal Mine was photographed from an airplane by Harry Ranney of DRMS on November 27, 2017. The weather was clear. The photos were reviewed by Rob Zuber of DRMS on November 28, 2017, resulting in the following report.

BACKFILL and GRADING – Rule 4.14

Contemporaneous Reclamation 4.14.1; Approximate Original Contour 4.14.2; Highwall Elimination 4.14.1(2)(f); Steep Slopes 4.14.2, 4.27; Handling of Acid and Toxic Materials 4.14.3; Stabilization of Rills and Gullies 4.14.6:

Piles of soil and waste on the King I facilities area need to be placed on the Refuse Pile, either on the upper portion (active portion of the Refuse Pile) or the lower portion where GCC needs to lessen the slope of the pile.

EXCESS SPOIL and DEVELOPMENT WASTE – Rule 4.09

Placement; Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization:

The Refuse Pile was inspected, and no slumps, erosion, or other problems were seen. It appears that the project to add material to the toe of the Refuse Pile has not progressed, presumably because GCC is awaiting lab results for the material that they will use.

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 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:

At the King I Mine, the West Pond and East Pond were dry. The pasture below the pond spillways showed no sign of discharges from the ponds in recent weeks. The photographs show that work has been done on both King I ponds, and GCC has confirmed that primary spillways were replaced at both ponds (per Tom Bird email). Also, material has been added to the embankment of the East Pond. All of this work has been performed to make the ponds meet the specifications in the PAP designs.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 4

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2

At the King I Mine, no problems were seen with any ditches. Particular attention was given to Reaches 1, 6, and 10.

The East and West Clearwater Ditches at King II appear to be functioning well; no signs of erosion or other problems were seen.

The King II pond was holding no water. No issues were found with the embankment.

The silt fence southwest of the King II pond appears to be functioning well since there are no signs of sediment loading below this BMP.

ROADS – Rule 4.03

Construction 4.03.1(3)/4.03.2(3)

Drainage 4.03.1(4)/4.03.2(4)

Surfacing and Maintenance 4.03.1(5) and (6)/4.03.2(5) and (6)

Reclamation 4.03.1(7)/4.03.2(7):

No problems were seen with King I or King II roads.

REVEGETATION – Rule 4.15

Vegetative Cover; Timing:

No issues were seen with the vegetation reference area northeast of the King II facilities area.

SUBSIDENCE – Rule 4.20:

No damage from subsidence was seen in the affected areas near King I or King II facilities.

SLIDES and DAMAGE - Rule 4.12:

The steep slopes at both King I and King II appeared stable. These include cut slopes near former portal areas at King I and cut slopes near portals and fans at King II.

SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

No problems with sediment were seen on the hill below the fan construction area at King II, nor were other problems seen at the rest of the facilities areas at either King I or King II. No problems were seen with coal spilling over the approved perimeters of the coal piles at King II.

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TOPSOIL – Rule 4.06

Removal 4.06.2; Substitute Materials 4.06.4(4); Storage and Protection 4.06.3; Redistribution 4.06.4:

At King I, the berm around the Plant Growth Medium Storage Area near the old Tipple Bench appears to be functioning well.

No problems were seen with the Topsoil Stockpiles at King II. They appear to be well vegetated, and there are no signs that the soil has been transported off the piles by runoff.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

No enforcement actions were initiated as a result of this inspection, nor are any pending.

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PHOTOGRAPHS



King I

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King I – lower area with improvements of ponds



Refuse Pile at King I

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King II – lower portion

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 4

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2



**King II – facilities, topsoil pile, and vegetation reference area
(reference area is within yellow oval)**

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 4

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2



King II

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 4

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2