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January 13, 2022

State of Colorado
Division of Reclamation, Mining & Safety
1313 Sherman St., Room 215
Denver, CO 80203

Attn: Janet Binns, Environmental Protection Specialist III

Re: GCC Energy, LLC, King II Mine
CDRMS Permit # C-1981-035
Stoner Engineering: Quarterly Inspection: Water Quality Improvements
4th Quarter 2021

Ms. Binns:

Please find enclosed a copy of Stoner Engineering's Quarterly Inspection report of the King I mine water quality improvements for the 4th quarter of 2021.

Please contact me at 505.238.8272 or svance@gcc.com if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Sarah Vance
Environmental Manager
GCC Energy, LLC

Stoner Engineering & Surveying
Engineering, Testing & Surveying

Date: December 17, 2021

To: Jordan McCourt
Project Coordinator
GCC Energy, LLC
6473 County Road 120
Hesperus, CO 81326
(970) 385-4528

From: Ryan Griglak, P.E.
Project Manager
Stoner Engineering & Surveying

Re: King Coal I – Quarterly Water Quality Improvements Inspection

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On December 17, 2021, Ryan Griglak, P.E. visited the GCC Energy, LLC King I Mine site to conduct the quarterly inspection of the water quality features installed to prevent contaminated storm water runoff from escaping the site in events smaller than the 100-year storm event.

There was snow present at the time of the inspection making a visual inspection of the drainage features difficult. There was water noted in the east pond in the form of ice (see Pic. 1). The west pond had no ice visible but was covered in drifted snow. The pond maintenance does not appear to have been completed. The east pond appears to have had the excess material removed; however, the west pond appears to have been partially completed due to the visible change in the depth of the pond near the sediment gage (see Pic. 2). The stockpiled material removed from the ponds has been installed most likely in the lower waste pile. While the maintenance was not completed, the capacity of the ponds has been improved. The ponds should continue to be monitored after storm events to ensure that excess sediment does not reduce the required storage capacity available for storm water runoff.

The sedimentation traps at the entrance to the site are generally in good condition. The ongoing snow removal operations have created berms in from of the sediment traps (see Pic. 3). The culvert leading into the east detention pond also has snow piled in front of its opening (see Pic. 4). These piles may limit the ability of runoff to flow through these drainage features which could result in additional maintenance of other areas within the site as well as creating a saturated area in and around the detention ponds. The inlets to these areas should be cleared to prevent runoff from bypassing these features. A portion of the lower site, south of the storm water detention ponds, is currently being utilized by a contractor (Weeminuche Construction Authority) as a field office.

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The clear water and the treated water ditches were not entirely visible at the time of the inspection due to the existing snow cover. There do not however, appear to be any issues with any of the ditches or culverts at the time of the inspection.

The drainage for the overall site appears to be functioning as designed. The drainage features have been constructed and will continue to function as stated in the drainage plan submitted to the Division of Reclamation, Mining & Safety once the ongoing maintenance work resulting from the significant snow accumulation has been completed.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions or concerns in regards to the issues that are discussed above.

Sincerely,

Ryan M. Griglak, P.E.
Project Manager

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Pic. 1 –East pond covered with snow, some ice present.

Pic. 2 – West pond covered in snow, excess sediment removal progress to date.

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Pic. 3 – Snow removal bermed/built up in front of sediment traps.

Pic. 4 – Culvert pipe to east detention pond blocked by snow removal operations.

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