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April 6, 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
1st Quarter 2022

Ms. Binns:

Please find enclosed a copy of Stoner Engineering's Quarterly Inspection report of the King I mine water quality improvements for the 1st quarter of 2022.

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

Sincerely,

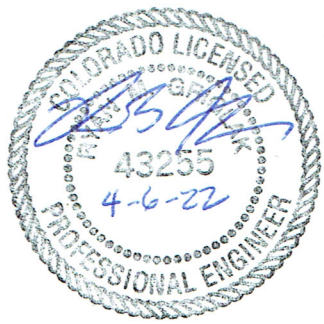
Sarah Vance
Environmental Manager
GCC Energy, LLC

Stoner Engineering & Surveying

Engineering, Testing & Surveying

Date: April 6, 2022

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 March 30, 2022, 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.

Both ponds held water at the time of the inspection. The water level in the west pond was near the depth of the sediment level removed last year (see Pic. 1). The east pond water level was also at the approximate level of sediment removed from the pond (see Pic. 2). It is assumed that the pond maintenance begun last year will be completed this summer once the ponds are dry. 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. Waste material has been placed on the lower waste pile since the previous inspection (see Pic. 3). The grading of the lower waste embankment pile generally directs surface runoff generally to the south and west as required in the design documents. The grading at the northeast corner of the lower pile has been improved although the grading improvements and/or snow removal at this location has resulted in the waste embankment pile encroaching up to the clear water ditch (see Pic. 4). This could result in surface runoff from the slope of the lower waste embankment pile entering the clear water ditch. This grading situation needs to be correcting by pulling the waste material back from the clear water ditch to ensure treated surface water runoff cannot enter/sheet flow into the clear water ditch. The grading at the top of the lower waste embankment pile should continue to be improved to ensure that surface runoff is directed away from the face of the waste embankment pile. While this is a minor concern noted during previous inspections, it is important to protect the temporary fuel storage tanks added below the lower waste pile at this location.

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A portion of the lower site, south of the storm water detention ponds, is being utilized by a contractor (Weeminuche Construction Authority) as a field office. While the potential for washing out the fuel storage tanks and containment pad is minimal, a localized, high intensity storm event could result in localized erosion in and around the fuel storage area.

The clear water and the treated water ditches appeared to be in generally good condition. There do not appear to be any issues with any of the ditches at the time of the inspection. All the culverts located on the site should be checked and any excess sediment cleared/cleaned as a result of typical spring runoff resulting from seasonally accumulated snow fall.

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 – Water level below last year's sediment removal, West pond.

Pic. 2 – Water level near sediment removal level, East pond.

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Pic. 3 – Lower waste pile, placement of embankment material.

Pic. 4 – Encroachment of lower waste pile to clear water ditch.

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