



April 10, 2022

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

Attn: 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 2023

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 2023.

Please contact me at 970.385.4528 or jmccourt@gcc.com if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Jordan McCourt

Jordan McCourt Project Manager GCC Energy, LLC



Date: April 6, 2023

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

On March 31, 2023, 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 due to recent runoff. The east pond water level was likely between 2-3 feet in depth at the time of the inspection (see Pic. 1). The west pond held less runoff however, there had been material placed/stockpiled within the existing pond area (see Pic. 2). The material placed within the west pond most likely results in the available storage capacity being less than required for storm water runoff. This excess material should be removed as soon as possible to ensure adequate pond capacity for runoff/storm events. The sedimentation traps at the entrance to the site are generally in good condition.

Recent and accumulated snow made inspecting the ditches and culverts impossible. While some areas were windblown and partially visible, most areas and ditches were drifted and completely covered at the time of the inspection (see Pic. 3 & Pic. 4). The culvert located at the north switchback of the haul road was crushed due to the soft conditions by maintenance equipment and will need to be replaced (see Pic. 5).

Waste material has been placed on both the upper and lower waste piles since the previous inspection. Surface grading appears to direct runoff away from the face of the piles and the required berming is in place.

Maintenance for the site should be expected to be more significant this spring due to the heavy snow accumulation from the winter. Runoff from the heavy snowmelt, possibly combining with spring storms will result in additional sediment loads within ditches and culverts. Sustained snowmelt may also result in excessive erosion in steeper ditches.



The clear water and the treated water ditches were not observable due to the current snow accumulation. There is no reason to believe that the drainage for the overall site is not functioning as designed however, the waste material placed within the west pond needs to be removed as soon as possible to ensure adequate storage capacity for the upcoming snow melt and spring storms (see Pic. 6).

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 west pond is cleaned out and 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





Pic. 1 – Water level, East pond.



Pic. 2 – Waste material within boundary of West pond.

P.O. Box 1163 Tel 970.565.7483





Pic. 3 – Snow accumulation below waste embankment piles.



Pic. 4 - South clear water ditch.

P.O. Box 1163 Tel 970.565.7483





Pic. 5 – Top of culvert crushed at north switchback.



Pic. 6 - Waste material placed within West Pond.