STATE OF COLORADO

Wein - DNR, Clayton <clayton.wein@state.co.us>

King Coal Mine, C-1981-035, May 2023 Complete Inspection Report

1 message

Wein - DNR, Clayton <clayton.wein@state.co.us> Tue, May 30, 2023 at 11:06 AM
To: McCourt Jordan <jmccourt@gcc.com>, "Mackinnon, Daniel" <dmackinnon@osmre.gov>
Cc: Lucas West - DNR <lucas.west@state.co.us>

Good morning Jordan and Dan,

Attached is the Division's report for the complete inspection of the King Coal Mine conducted on May 16, 2023. Please note the maintenance items noted at the beginning of the report. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Clayton Wein
Environmental Protection Specialist

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

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King Coal Mine, C-1981-035, May Complete Inspection and OSMRE Oversight Inspection Report_CCW.pdf
212K

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PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1981-035 **Mine Name:** King Coal Mine **Operator:** GCC Energy, LLC **Operator Address:** Mr. Jordan McCourt 6473 County Road 120 Hesperus, CO 81326	**County:** La Plata **Operation Type:** Underground **Permit Status:** Active **Ownership:** Private
	Operator Representative Present: Wade Wymore
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: May 16, 2023 **Inspection Start Time:** 08:40 **Inspection End Date:** May 16, 2023 **Inspection End Time:** 12:45	**Inspection Type:** Coal Complete Inspection **Inspection Reason:** OSM Oversight Inspection **Weather:** Clear
Joint Inspection Agency: OSMRE	**Joint Inspection Contacts:** Daniel MacKinnon
Post Inspection Agency: OSMRE	**Post Inspection Contacts:** Daniel MacKinnon

Inspector(s):	**Inspector's Signature:**	**Signature Date:**
Clayton Wein	Clayton Wein	5/30/2023

1313 Sherman St. Room 215
Denver, CO 80203
(303) 866-3567

Inspection Topic Summary
NOTE: **Y**=Inspected **N**=Not Inspected **R**=Comments Noted **V**=Violation Issued **NA**=Not Applicable

N - Air Resource Protection
R - Availability of Records
N - Backfill & Grading
R - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste
N - Explosives
Y - Fish & Wildlife
R - Hydrologic Balance
Y - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan
N - Other
R - Processing Waste
R - Roads
N - Reclamation Success
N - Revegetation
N - Subsidence
N - Slides and Other Damage
R - Support Facilities On-site
R - Signs and Markers
N - Support Facilities Not On-site
N - Special Categories Of Mining
R - Topsoil

COMMENTS

This report documents the observations taken by the Division during a complete inspection and Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) complete oversight inspection of the King Coal Mine on May 16, 2023. The inspection was completed by Clayton Wein of the Division. OSMRE was represented by Dan MacKinnon. Wade Wymore represented GCC Energy during the inspection. The weather was clear with a temperature starting at 51 degrees F. The ground was damp from a large precipitation event the evening prior to the inspection.

During the inspection the Division identified maintenance items at the King I Mine and the King II facilities area. Please complete the maintenance items as soon as ground conditions permit and submit photos to the Division when they are completed.

King I Mine:

1. Please clean all culvers along the haul road between the upper and Lower refuse disposal piles. Culverts had partly filled with sediment due to the precipitation event the evening prior to the inspection (Photo 1).
2. Please clean culverts as necessary throughout the mine area below the lower refuse disposal pile including the inlet to the west sediment pond. The culvert at the inlet was about half way full of sediment (Photo 2).
3. Please clean the sediment from the ditch inbetween the bath house and the lower refuse disposal pile. The ditch was mostly full of sediment and had ponded water in the ditch near the southwest corner of the bath house (Photo 3).
4. Please use rocks to help stabalize the channel leading off of the eastern side of the lower refuse disposal pile next to the access road. The channel has significantly down-cut and needs to be stabalized before the erosion progresses to the point where the slope stability of the pile is affected (Photo 4).
5. The inlet to the east pond has been down-cut below the culvert inlet. Please armor the inlet to the pond with rocks to help prevent future erosion of the pond's inlet (Photo 5).

King II Mine:

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 7
Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 4

6. The clearwater ditch located on the east side of the King II facilities has been mostly cleaned. Please remove the highpoint in the channel identified adjacent to the silt fence (Photo 6). This high point has the potential to pond some of the water in the clearwater ditch.
7. Please continue to implement weed control measures. Yellow Toad Flax, Canadian Thistle and Mullen were identified. Yellow Toad Flax was spotted on the southern base of the Topsoil Stockpile (Photo 7). Canadian Thistl and Mullen were identified northand northeast of the topsoil stockpile.
8. Please remove all non-coal waste and dispose of the trash located within the King II facilities area (Photo 8). Work was being conducted to complete this as the Division concluded the inspection.
9. Please clean out the ditch entering the sump located behind the fuel storage building. The ditch had filled with sediment due to the precipitation event the day prior to the inspection (Photo 9).
10. The ditch entering the cattle guard at the King II Mine entrance has become partially filled with sediment (Photo 10). Please clean this portion of the ditch when ground conditions allow.

AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS – Rule 5.02.4(1):

Records for the King Mine are located at the mine office at the King II Mine. There records were well kept and up to date. The items requested to be updated from the Division's March 2023 inspection were completed. There was one inspection report, March 2023, which was initially missing from the records. The operator updated the records during the inspection with the missing report. Please see the Availability of Records Form attached to the end of this report for more details.

EXCESS SPOIL and DEVELOPMENT WASTE – Rule 4.09

Placement; Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization:

During the inspection the main facilities area at King II was well kept. Trash and debris was picked up and contained within the trash bins.

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:

King I Mine: The clear water diversion ditches located adjacent to the upper and lower coal waste piles were damp from the precipitation the evening prior to the inspection (Photo 11). The ditches were observed to be stable with no erosional concerns. There were no blockages observed in the ditches. Culverts located along the haul road in-between the upper and lower coal waste piles were observed to have had some sediment deposited in them. Please clean out the culverts as soon as possible to prevent the culverts from plugging. Please clean any culverts as necessary within the facilities area at the King I Mine. The precipitation event that occurred the day prior to the inspection had transported sediment through the facilities area and deposited sediment within the culverts. No culverts were observed to be more than 1/3 full of sediment. Ditches throughout the facilities area at the King I Mine were generally in good condition. There were no indications of off-site impacts. The ditch that runs in-between the bathhouse and the lower refuse pile had become filled with sediment and water was ponded near the portion of the ditch adjacent to the southwest corner of the bathhouse. Please clean this ditch and restore the ditch to the approved design specifications. Two ponds are located at the King I Mine area; the east and the west pond. The east pond was holding water at the time of the inspection (Photo 12). There was no discharge

occurring. The inlet to the pond's discharge outlet was clear from debris. The embankment for the pond was stable with vegetative cover. There were no erosional concerns identified on the embankment. The inlet to the east pond is a metal culvert. The inlet was clear of debris. The channel below the culvert inlet has down-cut significantly. Please repair this portion of the pond's inlet. During the inspection the operator discussed with the Division and OSMRE that they will line the inlet channel below the culver with rocks to help prevent future down-cutting. The west pond was also impounding water during the inspection (Photo 13). There was no discharge from the pond. The pond's outlet pipe was clear of debris. The embankment was observed to be vegetated and stable. No erosional features were noted. The pond still has some material requiring cleaning from winter snow removal operations. Please clean out this material as soon as ground conditions allow. The material in the pond has backed up to the west pond's culvert inlet and partially blocked the exit of the pipe. Please clear out the sediment from the pond's inlet.

Ute Barn Area: The gravel pad located at the Ute barn area was stable with no erosional issues. The silt fences located along the south side of the pad were intact and had recently been repaired (Photo 14). There were no off site impacts observed.

King II Mine: Surface drainage control structures along the haul road at the King II Mine were clear from debris and stable. There were no erosional features observed. The portion of the ditch that crosses underneath the cattle guard at the King II entrance was beginning to fill with sediment. Please clean out the sediment when ground conditions allow. The amount of sediment observed in this section had not impeded the ditches functionality. Ditches throughout the King II Mine facilities were observed to be in good condition with no blockages. The ditch leading into the sump behind the fuel storage building was observed to be full of sediment. Please clean out the ditch as soon as possible to prevent water from bypassing the sump. The perimeter ditch around The topsoil stockpile was clear of debris and the culvert underneath the southern access to the pile was clear. In general culverts located throughout the King II Mine were clear of debris. The Sediment pond was holding some water during the inspection. There was no discharge from the pond. The embankments were stable with vegetation, and no erosional concerns were identified. The pond's discharge outlet was clear of blockages. The Clearwater diversion ditch located on the east side of the facilities was clear of debris and had been recently cleaned. One portion of the ditch was observed to have a higher grade than the rest of the ditch. Please remove the highpoint in the channel identified adjacent to the silt fence. This high point has the potential to pond some of the water in the Clearwater ditch. The Clearwater ditch located on the southwestern portion of the facilities was also clear of blockages and functional. There were no erosional concerns identified.

PROCESSING WASTE/COAL MINE WASTE PILES – Rule 4.10 and 4.11
Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization; Placement:

Coal waste from the mining operations is transported and stored at the King I Mine. The coal refuse is placed onto two stockpiles, the upper (Photo 15) and the lower coal waste pile. At the time of the inspection coal stored on the winter stockpile had been transported from the lower pile to the upper pile. Coal refuse from the winter stockpile will continue to be transported to the upper pile as conditions continue to dry up. Coal had been placed on the upper pile and was waiting to finish drying before the material will be spread out and compacted.

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The faces of the upper and lower coal waste piles were stable with no erosional concerns. Some minor rills were observed on the faces of the piles; however, these rills are not deep enough to affect the stability of the piles. Runoff on the Lower coal pile has continued to down-cut along the intersection of the east side of the access road and the northern facing slope of the pile. This section has been noted in previous Division 2023 inspection reports. Rocks have been placed in the ditch to help prevent further down-cutting. Please re-establish the ditch and continue to use rocks to armor the channel. The current ground conditions were too soft to begin work on the ditch repairs. Please start work as soon as conditions will allow.

ROADS – Rule 4.03
Construction 4.03.1(3)/4.03.2(3), Drainage 4.03.1(4)/4.03.2(4), Surfacing and Maintenance4.03.1(5) and (6)/4.03.2(5) and (6), Reclamation 4.03.1(7)/4.03.2(7):

The haul road at the King I Mine was stable with no erosional concerns. The ditches paralleling the road were clear of blockages and functioning as designed. The Sumps located along the haul road in-between the entrance and the main facilities area were generally in good condition. The operator's representative told the Division and OSMRE during the inspection that the material used for the silt fences is going to be replaced as soon as possible. The current material was nearly non-permeable. No off-site impacts were observed. The haul road at the King II Mine was stable with no erosional features observed. The ditches for the road were clear of debris. There were no off-site impacts.

SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

Support facilities at the King I Mine were well kept. There was no no-coal waste identified. Fuel stored on the site was located within secondary containment (Photo 16). A container of DEF was found outside the secondary containment. The operator's representative promptly moved the container to the secondary containment. There was no leakages from the container and no contamination was observed. Fuels and hydrocarbons stored at the King II Mine are located in a covered building to the east of the mine office. All fuels and hydrocarbons were stored properly in designed containment structures or on spill pallets (Photos 17 and 18). There were no spills observed.

SIGNS AND MARKERS – Rule 4.02:

Mine Identification signs were observed posted at the entrances to the King I and King II Mines. The signs were located in unobstructed view sheds and displayed the current information for the mine permit, the permittee and the Division. The Division observed topsoil pile markers placed in unobstructed locations on top of the piles at both the King I and King II Mines. Disturbance boundary markers were also observed to be in the correct locations.

TOPSOIL – Rule 4.06
Removal 4.06.2; Substitute Materials 4.06.4(4); Storage and Protection 4.06.3; Redistribution 4.06.4:

The topsoil pile at the King I Mine was stable with vegetative cover. There were no indications of erosional features or loss of topsoil resource. The topsoil pile located at the King II Mine was also stable and vegetated. Yellow Toad Flax was spotted in a small patch on the southern base of the pile. Please spray these noxious weed as soon as possible to prevent further infestation on the topsoil resource.

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DOCUMENTS RECEIVED: None

OTHER (SPECIFY): None

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ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

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

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo 1: One of the culverts along the haul road in-between the upper and lower coal waste piles that needs to be cleaned.

Photo 2: The culvert inlet to the West Pond needs to be cleaned.

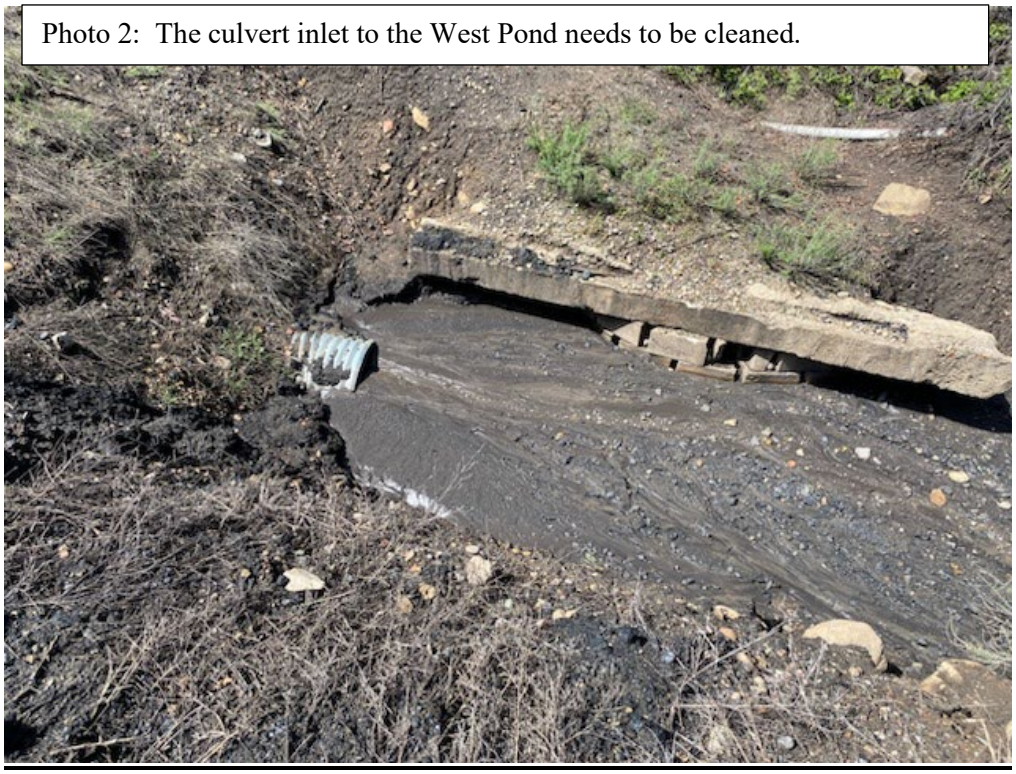

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Photo 3: The sedimented ditch along the bathhouse. The down-cut ditch along the lower coal waste pile can also been seen at the bottom of the photo.

Photo 4: The upper portion of the down-cutting ditch on the lower coal waste pile

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Photo 5: The down-cut inlet to the East Pond at the King I Mine.

Photo 6: The highpoint located in the King II east Clearwater ditch.

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Photo 7: The small patch of Yellow Toad Flax fount on the King II topsoil stockpile.

Photo 8: Some of the non-coal waste located within the King II facilities area.

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Photo 9: The inlet from the ditch into the sump behind the fuel storage building at the King II Mine

Photo 10: The west side of the cattle guard at the entrance to the King II

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Photo 11: The east Clearwater ditch at the King I Mine.

Photo 12: The East Pond at the King I Mine.

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Photo 13: The West Pond at the King I Mine.

Photo 14: The gravel pad and silt fence at the Ute Barn Area.

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Photo 15: The upper coal waste pile at the King I Mine.

Photo 16: Fuel and hydrocarbon storage at the King I Mine.

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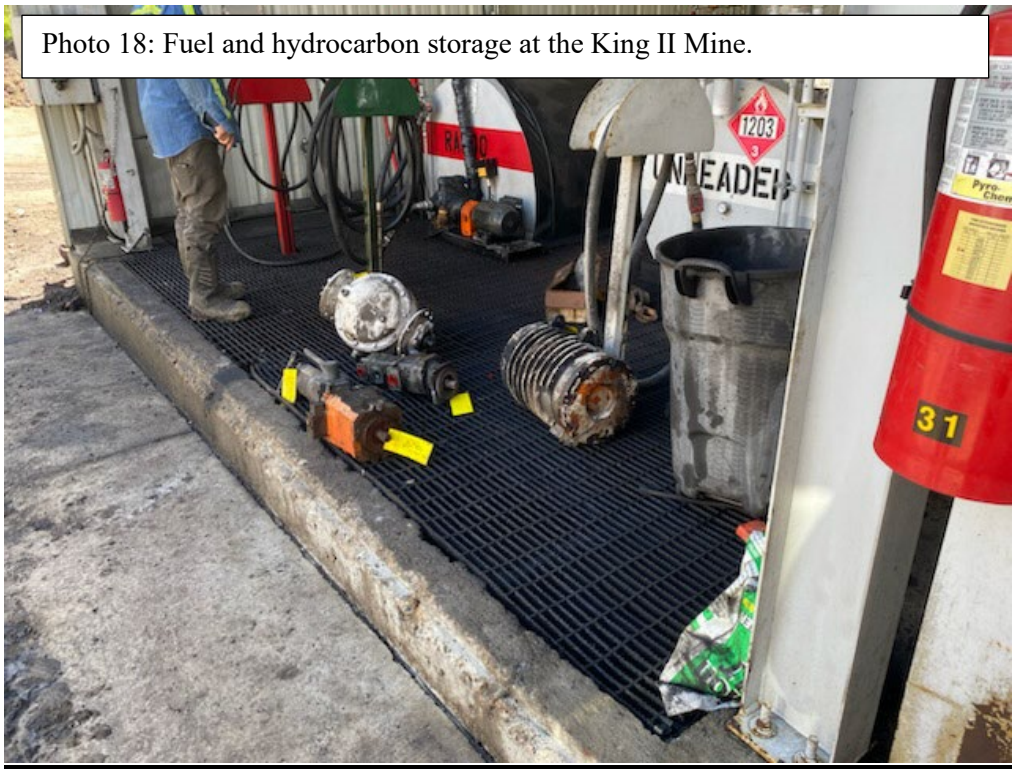
Photo 17: Fuel and hydrocarbon storage at the King II Mine.

Photo 18: Fuel and hydrocarbon storage at the King II Mine.



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AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS

PERMIT RECORDS	
DRMS Permit	RN-8
Permit Application w/Revisions	OK
Findings Document	RN-8
Insurance Certificate	Exp. Dec. 2023
Bond Document	OK
Phased Bond Release Documents/Findings	NA
Air Emission Permits	09LP0202F
County Special Use Permits	OK
UG Mining Landowner Notification	OK
Subsidence Monitoring Reports	OK Oct. 2022
Subsidence Monitoring Data	OK
Rill & Gully Survey	NA
Vegetation Monitoring Data	NA
Specific Variance Approvals	NA
Annual Reclamation Reports	2022
Midterm Review Documents	MT-7
DRMS/OSM Inspection Reports/Enforcement Actions (3 Years)	Up to date, Apr. 2023
Transfers/Succession of Operator	OK
Temporary Cessation Notification	NA
Reclamation Cost Estimate	OK RN-8

CERTIFICATIONS	
Pond Certifications	Ok
Annual Certifications for Impoundments	King II Sep.2022
Fill Certifications for Excess Spoil or Underground Development Waste	1st Q 2023
• Quarterly Inspections	1st Q 2023
• Compaction Testing	1st Q 2023
• Final Certification	NA
Coal Processing Waste Banks	NA
Haul Road Certifications	OK
Access Road Certifications	OK

HYDROLOGIC RECORDS	
NPDES Permit	COG850001
NPDES Records	1st q 2023
Stormwater Management Plan	2017 OK
SPCC Plan	OK
MSHA Pond Inspections	1st Q 2023
State Engineer's Pond Inspection	NA
Quarterly Pond Inspections	1st Q 2023
Annual Hydrology Reports	2022
• Ground Water Monitoring	OK
• Surface Water Monitoring	OK
• Spring & Seep Monitoring	NA
• Mine Water Discharge Monitoring	NA
• Mine Inflow Study	NA
• Water Consumption Records	OK
Well Permits	OK

BLASTING RECORDS	
Blasting Publication	NA
Blasting Records (3 years)	NA
ATFE Explosives Permit	NA
Blasting Variances	NA
Pre-Blast Surveys	NA

ADDITIONAL RECORDS (specify)	

COMMENTS:

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