



C-1981-035 King Mine July 2023 Partial Inspection Report

1 message

West - DNR, Lucas <lucas.west@state.co.us>

Tue, Aug 1, 2023 at 11:08 AM

To: McCourt Jordan <jmccourt@gcc.com>, Wymore Wade <wwymore@gcc.com>, DNR DRMS_CoalAdmin - DNR <dnr_drms_coal_admin@state.co.us>, Clayton Wein - DNR <clayton.wein@state.co.us>

Good Morning Jordan and Wade,

Attached is the inspection report from our July Partial Inspection. The Only maintenance Item I had was the culverts on the access road to the Upper Refuse Pile, outside of that things look great! Let me know if you have any questions or need anything else.

Lucas

Lucas West

Environmental Protection Specialist

Minerals Program, Grand Junction Field Office



COLORADO
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Mining and Safety
Department of Natural Resources

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2722K



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: July 19, 2023 Inspection Start Time: 07:58 Inspection End Date: July 19, 2023 Inspection End Time: 09:52	Inspection Type: Coal Partial 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): Lucas West	Inspector's Signature:  Signature Date: 8/1/2023

Inspection Topic Summary

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

N - Air Resource Protection

N - Roads

N - Availability of Records

N - Reclamation Success

N - Backfill & Grading

N - Revegetation

N - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

N - Subsidence

N - Explosives

N - Slides and Other Damage

N - Fish & Wildlife

N - Support Facilities On-site

R - Hydrologic Balance

N - Signs and Markers

N - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Support Facilities Not On-site

N - Other

N - Special Categories Of Mining

R - Processing Waste

N - Topsoil

COMMENTS

This was a partial inspection conducted by Lucas West of the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety as part of the normal monitoring program for permitted sites. Wade Wymore accompanied the inspection and represented the Operator. Normal activities were taking place at the mine during the inspection. At the King II area, the stackers were active and trucks were being loaded at the time of the inspection. At the King I facility, refuse material was actively being moved from the lower to the upper storage area via belly dump scaper and compacted into place. The weather was clear and dry at the time of the inspection. Nine Photos accompany this report to illustrate the current site conditions.

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 Facility

The internal drainage structures that had been identified as previous maintenance items were observed, specifically the culverts along the access road leading from the Lower Refuse Pile to the Upper Refuse Piles. Along that access road, the lower most culvert has been cleared and appeared to be able to function as designed. The middle culvert has not yet been cleared, however the Operator investigated the issue and determined that replacing the culvert was the best course of action. The new culvert is staged for installation however has not been installed yet. The Operator should replace the culvert as soon as conditions allow. The upper most culvert has not been cleared nor replaced. As seen in Photos One and Two the culvert is over half full of sediment and should either be cleared or replaced. The Operator took immediate action and the culvert was being cleaned that day. The Division will follow up to ensure completion during the next regular inspection.

During the Division's previous inspections it was identified that the sediment ditch leading from the lower refuse pile, adjacent the access road, to the West Sediment Pond was in need of repair. The Operator has completed the task and installed rock check dams along the ditch to dissipate energy and prevent erosion. This maintenance item is considered resolved and the repaired sediment ditch can be seen in Photos Three and Four. The East and West Sediment Ponds at the King I area is in good condition and appear to be well below the design capacity. The

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banks are well vegetated and appeared stable at the time of the inspection and no evidence of discharge was noted.

King II Facility

Another maintenance item that had been identified was the drainage areas on either side and below the cattle guard at the entrance to the King II Area. This area was observed and the Operator has taken action to clean out the up gradient sump as well as the down gradient sump. With the cleaning of these areas, surface flows appear to be able to flow unimpeded, this maintenance item is considered resolved at this time. The ditches along the access road leading to the main Sediment Pond at the King II area were observed to be free from debris and able to function as designed. The ditches are well vegetated and show no signs of recent flows. The Main Sediment Pond, seen in Photo Five is in good condition. The pond contained standing water, however was not discharging and showed no signs of recent discharge. On the north side of the pond, some underground infrastructure panels had fallen onto the banks near the inlet culvert, however were not impeding its flow. This was identified as a problem, but again, the Operator took immediate action and the panels were actively being moved before the inspection was concluded.

All other internal drainage structures at the King II area were observed to be in good condition and functioning as designed. One small ditch, leading from the fuel and hazardous materials storage area to a sump was identified as needing cleaned out during the Division's previous inspection. Photo Six shows the ditch has been cleared and appears to be able to function as designed. This maintenance item is considered resolved and no further action, other than monitoring is necessary.

PROCESSING WASTE/COAL MINE WASTE PILES – Rule 4.10 and 4.11

Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization; Placement:

King I Area

At the King I Area, almost all of the staged refuse material that was stored on the Lower Refuse Pile has been transferred to the upper pile, laid down in lifts and compacted. As the material was pulled from the Lower Pile it was done so in a way, and at a grade to prevent erosion of the material. The lower Refuse Pile can be seen in Photo Seven. The Pile is in excellent condition and appears to be being handled within the design specifications. The pile exhibits positive drainage and no impounded surface water was noted, but also not showing signs of settling, slumping or erosion. More material will be transferred to the upper pile, to create enough capacity that the Lower Refuse Pile will be able to be utilized through the upcoming winter months.

The Upper Refuse Pile was also observed to be in excellent condition as seen in Photos Eight and Nine. All material on the pile has been spread in lifts, watered and compacted in accordance with the design specifications. The pile exhibits positive drainage and no evidence of settling slumping or erosion, with the exception of a small area on the out slope of the face, near the southeast corner was noted. This area was eroded by melting snow and precipitation however is slated for repair soon. On site discussions with the Operator indicate the repair efforts will include pulling back the entire slope of the face to tie it in with the compacted surface, resulting in a gentler slope to prevent erosion. The discussed repair and sloping is slated to happen within the next few weeks, and the Division will follow up with the Operator during the next regularly scheduled inspection.

REVEGETATION – Rule 4.15

Vegetative Cover; Timing:

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Throughout the site, evidence of extensive chemical weed treatment was noted. The Operator has been diligent in the management of noxious weeds, however the surrounding properties are left untreated which is contributing to the spread. The species of concern throughout most of the area is Canada thistle, which was observed on site in small isolated pockets. The Operator is encouraged to continue the weed management efforts. Additionally, noxious weeds were identified on the main topsoil stockpile at the King II area during one of the Division's previous inspections. The stockpile was observed and further evidence of continued noxious weed management was noted. This maintenance item is considered resolved, and no further action other than monitoring and continued treatment as necessary, is required.

PHOTOGRAPHS



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Photo Four: View North, showing where the repaired sediment ditch meets the lower sediment ditch. The repairs are in good condition and the maintenance item is considered resolved.



Photo Five: View North showing the Main Sediment Pond at the King II area. The pond contained standing water however was not discharging and showed no signs of recent discharge.

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Photo Eight: View East, showing the Upper Refuse Pile with material actively being placed, watered and compacted during the inspection.



Photo Nine: View East, showing another view of the Upper Refuse Pile. The pile is graded to promote positive drainage and compacted.

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