STATE OF COLORADO

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

King I and II Mine November Aerial Inspection

1 message

Wein - DNR, Clayton <clayton.wein@state.co.us> Mon, Nov 27, 2023 at 1:56 PM
To: McCourt Jordan <jmccourt@gcc.com>, Vance Sarah <svance@gcc.com>, Dickson Michael <mdickson@gcc.com>, "Dorenkamp Chris (Frank)" <cdorenkamp@gcc.com>, Lucas West - DNR <lucas.west@state.co.us>

Good afternoon all,

Attached is the Division's inspection report for an aerial inspection of the King Mine conducted on November 14, 2023. Please note the maintenance item outlined in the report. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Clayton Wein
Environmental Protection Specialist

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

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King Mine, C-1981-035, November 2023 Aerial Inspection Report_CCW.pdf
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COLORADO
Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety
Department of Natural Resources

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: NA
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: November 14, 2023 **Inspection Start Time:** 11:00 **Inspection End Date:** November 14, 2023 **Inspection End Time:** 11:05	**Inspection Type:** Aerial Inspection **Inspection Reason:** Normal I&E Program **Weather:** Clear
Joint Inspection Agency: None	**Joint Inspection Contacts:** None
Post Inspection Agency: None	**Post Inspection Contacts:** None

Inspector(s):	**Inspector's Signature:**	**Signature Date:**
Clayton Wein Brock Bowles	Clayton Wein	11/27/2023

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
N - Availability of Records
N - Backfill & Grading
R - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste
N - Explosives
N - 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
N - Signs and Markers
N - Support Facilities Not On-site
N - Special Categories Of Mining
R - Topsoil

COMMENTS

This report documents the observations made by the Division during an aerial inspection of the King I and II Mine. The inspection was conducted on November 14, 2012. Photos from the inspection were taken by Brock Bowles of the Division. This report was written by Clayton Wein of the Division. The weather was clear with a high temperature of 54° F. Ground conditions during the inspection were dry.

Maintenance Items Identified During This Inspection:

1. The dumpsters located to the north of the sediment pond at the King II Facilities Area has a small amount of trash outside the Green roll-off dumpster. Please pick up the trash and place it in the dumpster.

EXCESS SPOIL and DEVELOPMENT WASTE – Rule 4.09
Placement; Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization:

The area surrounding the Bath house at the King I area was well maintained and there was no loose trash or debris lying around the site. All trash within the King I area is placed in barrels at the bath house. Trash at the King II area was placed in roll-of dumpsters. The equipment laydown area was well kept and no trash or debris was observed. **The dumpsters located to the north of the sediment pond has a small amount of trash outside the Green roll-off dumpster (Photo 1). Please pick up the trash and place it in the dumpster.**

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 II Facilities Area:

There is one sediment pond located at the south end of the King II Facilities Area (Photo 2). The pond was holding water during the inspection. The level of water impounded in the pond was below the primary discharge outlet. The outlet for the pond was clear of debris. The embankments for the pond were stable with vegetative cover. There were no erosional features identified. The sediment pond was undergoing cleaning. Piles of

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 4
Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1

material to be removed from the pond were seen at the north end of the pond. The piles of material were located in the pond so that the functionality of the pond was not impacted and sufficient capacity remained. These pond cleanings will be removed from the pond when ground conditions allow.

Drainage ditches throughout the King II area were observed to be unobstructed and functioning as designed (Photo 3). Ditches were transporting water to the sediment pond. There were no indications of channel instability or erosional issues.

The sump located behind the hydrocarbons storage shed was in a shadow of a tree at the time of the inspection (Photo 3). Water was likely impounded in the sump although the shadow made it difficult to determine.

Culverts throughout the King II area appeared to be functioning as designed. There were no culverts with ponded water on the upstream side (Would indicate partial or full blocked culvert).

The east clearwater diversion ditch was dry at the time of the inspection (Photo 4). There were no indications of instability or erosion. The west Clearwater diversion ditch was also dry and stable. No erosional concerns were identified.

The ditch paralleling the haul road to the entrance of the King II Facilities Area was dry (Photo 5). There were no obstructions in the ditch. The ditch was stable and there were no erosional concerns. The Sump on the east side of the entrance cattle guard appeared to be dry.

King I Facilities Area:

Two sediment ponds are located at the northern portion of the King I facilities area, the east pond and the west pond (Photo 6). The east pond was dry during the inspection. The embankment was covered with vegetation and stable. There were no erosional features identified. The outlet for the pond was unobstructed. In previous Division inspection reports, the inlet to the east pond had been down cutting. The operator in 2023 installed a riprap liner at the inlet to reduce the down cutting. The inlet during this inspection appeared to be stable and in similar to the previous Division Inspections. The West pond was holding water at a level below the primary spillway. The outlet for the pond was unobstructed. The inlet to the pond was stable with no erosional concerns. The pond's embankment was vegetated and stable. There were no indications of erosion.

Drainage control ditches throughout the King I area and the refuse disposal area were observed to be dry. Reach 13 was recently reconstructed. The ditch was stable with no erosional features identified. The portion of the ditch paralleling the northeastern side of the Lower Refuse Disposal Area was lined with riprap. Reach 10 was also recently reconstructed. Reach 10 was stable and had no indications of erosion. The channel was lined with

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Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1

boulders to improve safety for the adjacent haul road. Both Reach 10 and Reach 13 were constructed to the approved designs and locations approved by Technical Revision No. 27.

During the inspection, both the east and west Clearwater diversion ditches were dry. The channels were clear of debris and had no indications of erosion. There were no observed signs of instability.

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

There are two refuse piles located at the King I facilities area, The Upper Refuse Disposal Area (URDA) and the Lower Refuse Disposal Area (LRDA). During the inspection refuse material on the URDA was placed in the southern section of the pile in a windrow (Photo 7). The top of the pile was stable with no erosional features identified. The face of the URDA was in good condition and there were no concerns of erosion observed. Reach 10 and The ditch paralleling the haul road were dry and stable. These ditches transport runoff from the URDA to the LRDA and eventually into the west sediment pond. The LRDA was also stable. Refuse material was observed stockpiled in two piles on top of the LRDA (Photo 8). The face of the LRDA was stable with no erosional features. Extensive work was completed in October 2023 on the northeastern portion of the LRDA. The northeastern corner was identified in the August 2023 Division inspection to not match the approved design with Technical Revision No. 27. Reach 13 is located adjacent to the LRDA's northeast corner and was observed to be covered over during August 2023. The northeastern corner of the pile was observed to match the TR-27 design and was stable with no erosion. Reach 13 was noted to be dry and stable. The reconstructed Reach 13 was in the correct location.

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

The main entrance and haul road at the King II facilities area was well maintained. There were no erosional concerns or indications of instability identified. The haul road at the King I facilities area was also stable with no erosional features. Ditches paralleling the haul road were observed to be clear of debris and dry.

SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

The majority of the support facilities are currently located at the King II facilities area (Photo 9). The portals bench was stable with no erosional features observed. The parking lot by the mine office was stable with no erosional concerns. Coal throughout the processing area was observed to be properly contained in the designated areas. No off-site impacts were observed. The equipment and materials laydown area is located to the south of the coal processing stackers. The Laydown area was well kept and there was no excess trash observed.

The Refuse Disposal Area and some support facilities remain at the King I facilities area. The bath house, old sales office, pump houses and a storage shed remain on the pad below and to the north of the Lower Refuse Disposal Area (Photo 8). The pad was well kept and stable. There were no indications or erosional features observed.

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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 stockpiles located at the King I facilities area are located north of the Lower Refuse Disposal Area. The topsoil stockpiles were stable with vegetative cover. There were no indications of erosion or loss of topsoil resource. The perimeter berms were observed to be vegetated and stable.

The King II facilities topsoil stockpile is located north of the coal processing stackers. The pile was stable and covered with vegetation. There were no erosional concerns identified. The perimeter berm was also vegetated and stable. There was no indication of loss of topsoil resource.

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: The maintenance item identified. Trash located outside the receptacle.

Photo 2: The King II Sediment Pond.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 4
Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1

Photo 3: King II Facilities Ditches were functioning as designed.

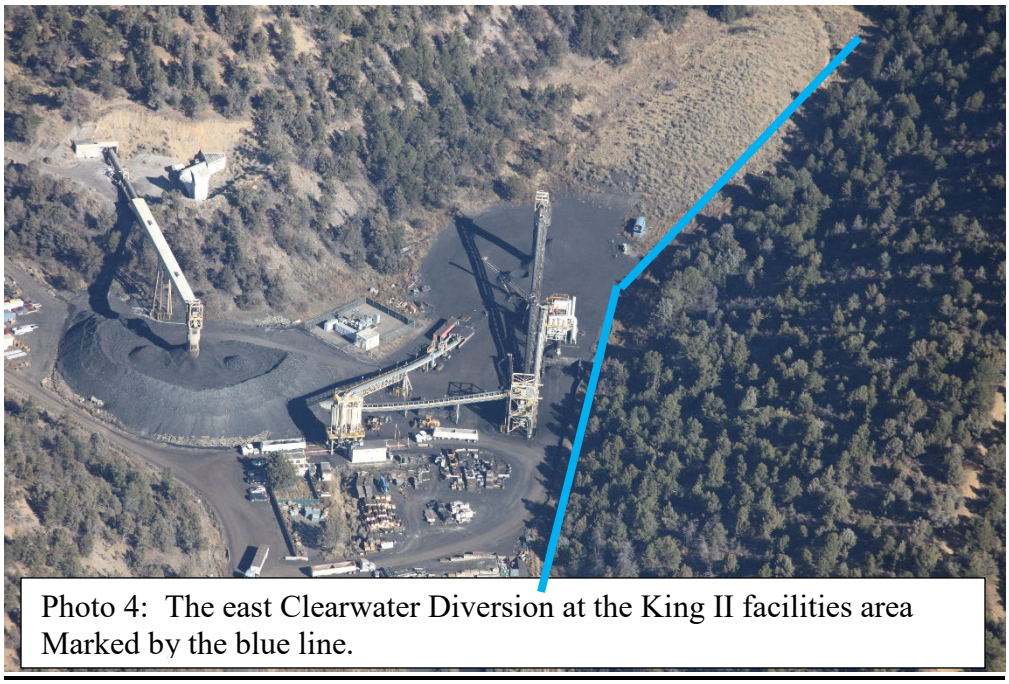


Photo 4: The east Clearwater Diversion at the King II facilities area Marked by the blue line.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 4
Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1

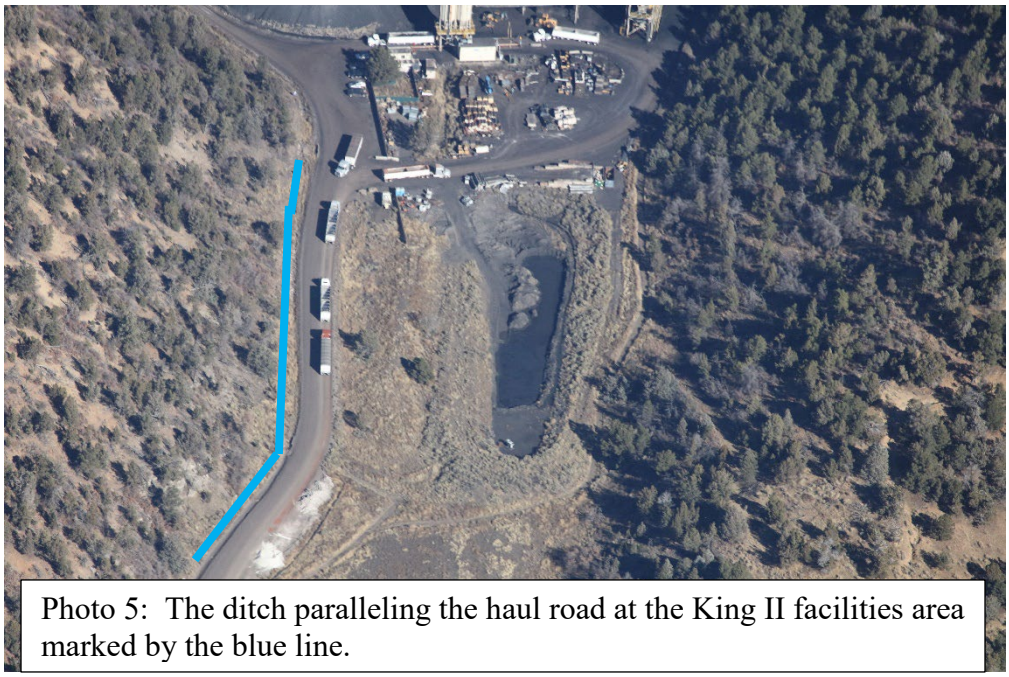
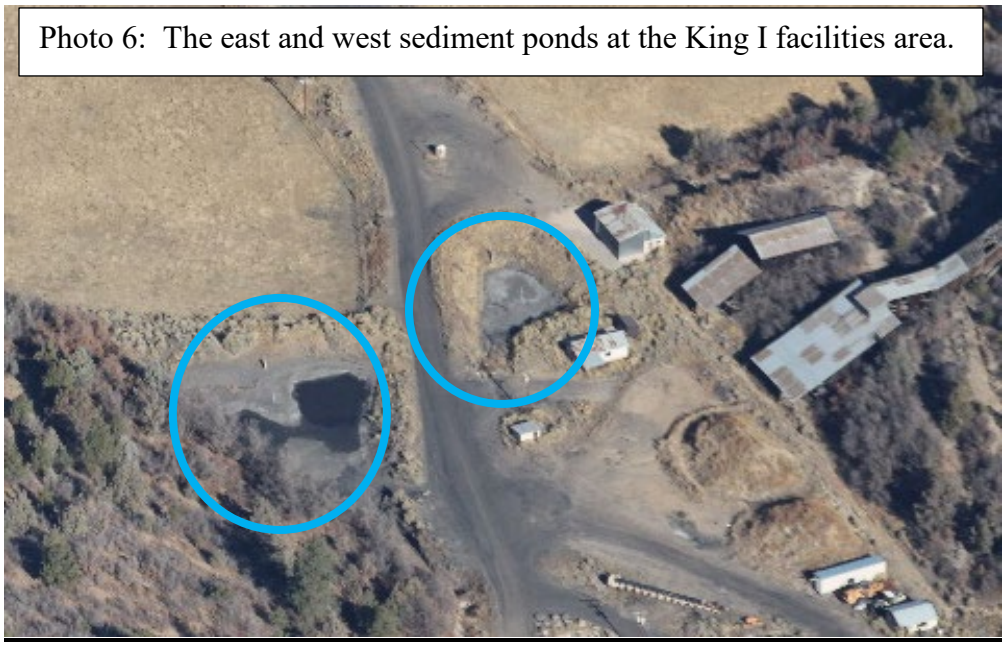


Photo 5: The ditch paralleling the haul road at the King II facilities area marked by the blue line.

Photo 6: The east and west sediment ponds at the King I facilities area.



Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 4
Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1

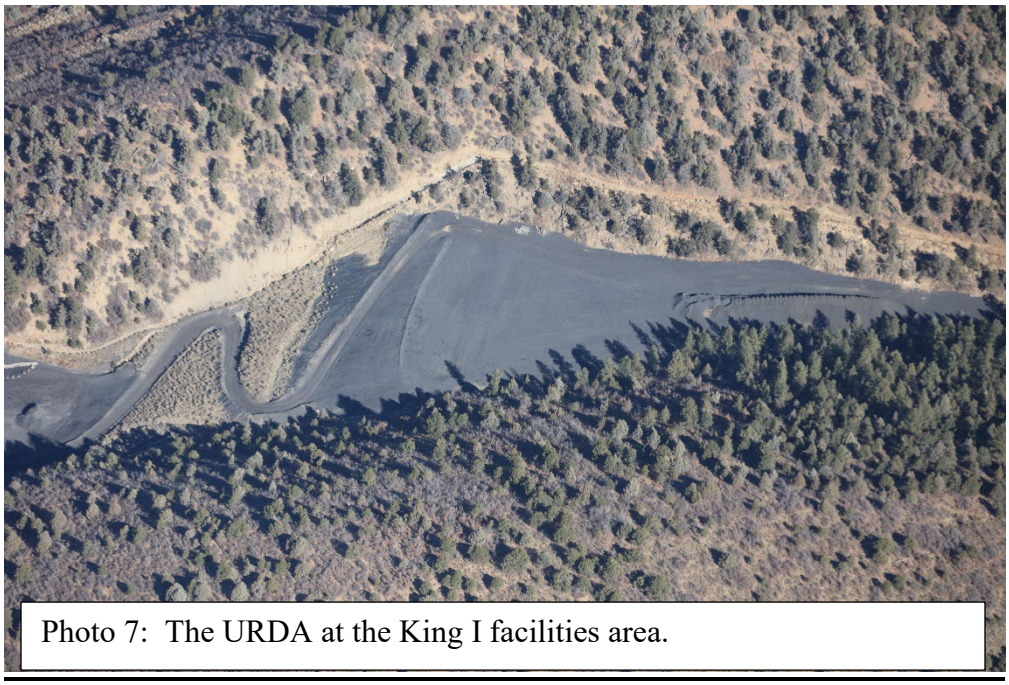


Photo 7: The URDA at the King I facilities area.

Photo 8: The LRDA at the King I facilities area.

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Photo 9: The Support Facilities at the King II facility area.

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