



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: Michael Dickson
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: December 12, 2023 Inspection Start Time: 09:45 Inspection End Date: December 12, 2023 Inspection End Time: 12:00		Inspection Type: Coal Complete 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): Clayton Wein	Inspector's Signature: <i>Clayton Wein</i>		
		Signature Date: 12/27/2023	

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

Y - 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

R - Signs and Markers

N - Support Facilities Not On-site

N - Special Categories Of Mining

R - Topsoil

COMMENTS

This report documents the Division's observations taken during a complete inspection of the King Mine on December 12, 2023. The inspection was conducted by Clayton Wein of the Division. The operator, GCC, was represented during the inspection by Michael Dickson. The weather was clear with a temperature of 38° F. The ground conditions were partly covered with snow on north-facing areas and dry/wet on the south-facing areas.

AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS – Rule 5.02.4(1):

The records for the King Mine are located at the Mine Office within the King II Facilities Area. The records are stored in 3 ring binders. The records were well kept. The Division identified that the records needed to be updated with the following documents:

- 1. The quarterly DMR's need to be updated with the 3rd Quarter 2023 reports.**
- 2. The Division's October 2023 Inspection Report needs to be added to the records.**
- 3. The records need the 3rd Quarter 2023 DMRs.**
- 4. The records need the 3rd Quarter Refuse Pile Monitoring Reports.**

For more details, please see the Availability of Records Form attached to the end of this report.

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:

There are two ponds located at the King I Mining Area. The East Pond (Photo 1) and the West Pond (Photo 2). These ponds collect runoff from the refuse disposal area and the mining facilities north of the refuse piles. The East Pond was covered with snow at the time of the inspection. The embankment was stable with no erosional

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features. The inlet and outlet for the pond were clear of obstructions. The sediment marker was observed to be posted. The West Pond was also covered with snow. The pond's embankment was stable and there were no erosional issues identified. The inlet and outlet for the pond were clear of debris. The sediment marker was intact.

Two clear water diversion ditches divert water around the coal waste disposal piles. The East and West Ditches were observed to be covered with snow during the inspection. There were no indications of instability or erosion features. No obstructions were identified.

Reach 10 and Reach 13 were repaired in the fall of 2023 due to maintenance work being required on the Lower Refuse Disposal Area (LRDA). Reach 10 was returned to the configuration outlined on KI Map 007. The upper portion of Reach 10 is on the western section of the pile next to the haul road. This section of the ditch was clear of debris and stable. No erosional concerns were identified. The lower portion of Reach 10 parallels the haul road to the base of the LRDA. This section of the ditch was stable and there were no obstructions observed. No indications of erosion were seen. Reach 13 was mostly covered with snow at the time of the inspection. The ditch was stable with no erosional concerns identified (Photo 3). No blockages were observed. Reach 13 matched the location and design outlined on KI Map 007.

The Drainage ditches along the haul road were clear of debris and covered with snow. There were no indications of instability or erosion. Culverts along the haul road were clear of debris and unobstructed (Photo 4).

King II:

One sediment pond is located at the southern end of the King II Mining Area. The pond collects all runoff from the mining area. Pond cleaning has progressed since the previous inspection. The pond often becomes too saturated to clean and can only be conducted when conditions allow. The remaining capacity in the pond is sufficient to treat runoff. The sediment pond was holding some water below the level of the discharge outlet (Photo 5). The inlets and outlet for the pond were clear of obstructions. The pond's embankment was stable with vegetative cover. No erosional features were identified.

Two clear water ditches divert upstream runoff around the King II Area. The ditches were observed to be clear of debris and stable (Photo 6). There were no indications of instability.

Various ditches and culverts (Photo 7) throughout the King II Area were functioning properly to convey water to the sediment pond. No obstructions or erosional features were identified.

There is one sump located behind the hydrocarbon storage shed. The sump was stable with no erosional features.

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

Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization; Placement:

The coal waste disposal piles are located at the King I Mining Area. The Upper Refuse Disposal Area (URDA) was stable and partly covered with snow (Photo 8). A winter stockpile of refuse material was located on the southern end of the pile away from the front slope. There was ample room left to store more material when the URDA is accessible. The LRDA was also partly covered with snow during the inspection. Refuse material was actively being placed in a stockpile towards the middle of the LRDA. The slope of the LRDA was stable and there were no indications of erosion. The northeast section of the Pile was reshaped during a maintenance project in the

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fall of 2023 to ensure the LRDA was being built in accordance with KI Map 007. The newly reshaped section of the pile was covered with snow. There were no indications of instability or erosion.

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 haul road at the King I Area was icy but stable during the inspection. There were no erosional features or indications of instability. The haul Road at the King II Area was dry and stable. There were no erosional features observed. The sump located at the entrance to the King II Area was clear of debris and dry. No erosional concerns were identified.

SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

The pad at the King I Mining Area was stable and partly covered with snow. There were no indications of erosional features observed. No non-coal waste was observed at the site.

Facilities at the King II Mining Area include: equipment and materials laydown area, the coal processing plant, the coal loadout structure, the hydrocarbon storage shed, the mine office, the shop, and the portals. The King II Facilities area was well kept and organized. There were no areas with non-coal waste. All non-coal waste was observed to be placed in roll-off dumpsters. Coal stockpiles throughout the processing plant were contained within the designated areas. No off site impacts were observed. All hydrocarbons were observed to be stored in the shed within the proper secondary containment. The pad for these areas was stable and there were no erosional features observed.

SIGNS AND MARKERS – Rule 4.02:

Mine identification signs were observed at both of the entrances to the King I and King II Mining Areas. The Signs displayed the mine's permit number and the current contact information for the permittee. The signs were posted in easy to spot 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 stored at the King I Mining area was mostly covered with snow (Photo 9). The pile was stable with no indications of erosion. No loss of topsoil resource was observed. The topsoil stored at the King II Mining Area was stable with vegetative cover (Photo 10). The perimeter ditch was stable and clear of debris. No loss of topsoil resource was observed. All topsoil pile markers were observed to be intact and located on top of the piles.

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 King I East Sediment Pond



Photo 2: The King I West Sediment Pond.



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Photo 3: The recently completed maintenance on Reach 13.



Photo 4: The lower culvert outlet along the Haul Road In-between the URDA and LRDA.



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Photo 6: The King II Sediment Pond.



Photo 6: The west Clearwater ditch at the King II Mining Area.



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Photo 7: The inlet to a culvert underneath the access road to the King II Sediment Pond.



Photo 8: The URDA north slope.



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Photo 9: The King I Topsoil Stockpile.



Photo 10: The King II Topsoil Stockpile.



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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. Sep. 2024
Bond Document	OK
Phased Bond Release	NA
Documents/Findings	
Air Emission Permits	09LP0202F
County Special Use Permits	OK
UG Mining Landowner Notification	OK
Subsidence Monitoring Reports	OK
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	Up to Nov. 2023
Reports/Enforcement Actions (3 Years)	Needs Oct. 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	2 nd Q 2023
• Quarterly Inspections	2 nd Q 2023, Needs 3rd Q
• Compaction Testing	Annual/2022
• Final Certification	NA
Coal Processing Waste Banks	NA
Haul Road Certifications	OK
Access Road Certifications	OK

HYDROLOGIC RECORDS

NPDES Permit	COG850001
NPDES Records	2 nd Q 2023 Needs 3rd Q
Stormwater Management Plan	2017 OK
SPCC Plan	OK
MSHA Pond Inspections	1 st Q 2023
	NA
State Engineer's Pond Inspection	
Quarterly Pond Inspections	2 nd Q 2023, Needs 3rd Q
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)

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