

STATE OF
COLORADO

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

King Mine February Inspection Report

1 message

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

Thu, Feb 29, 2024 at 3:42 PM

To: McCourt Jordan <jmccourt@gcc.com>

Cc: Dickson Michael <mdickson@gcc.com>, Vance Sarah <svance@gcc.com>, "Dorenkamp Chris (Frank)" <cdorenkamp@gcc.com>, Lucas West - DNR <lucas.west@state.co.us>

Good afternoon Jordan,

Attached is the Division's report for the complete inspection of the King Mine conducted on February 15, 2023. 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, February 2024 Complete 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: Jordan McCourt
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) 	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: February 15, 2024 Inspection Start Time: 10:10 Inspection End Date: February 15, 2024 Inspection End Time: 11:40		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: 2/29/2024		

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

N - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

N - Explosives

Y - Fish & Wildlife

R - Hydrologic Balance

Y - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Other

R - Processing Waste

N - 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 of the King Mine during a Complete Inspection. The inspection was conducted on February 15, 2024 by Clayton Wein of the Division. The operator, GCC Energy, LLC, was represented during the inspection by Jordan McCourt. The weather was partly cloudy turning to clear skies with a temperature of 38° F. The ground conditions varied from snow covered at the King I Mining Area to muddy at the King II Mining Area. Due to the mix of the snowy and muddy ground conditions, access to some parts of the King Mine were limited.

AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS – Rule 5.02.4(1):

The records for the King Mine are located at the mine office within the King II Mining Area. The records were well kept and up to date. Please see the Availability of Records Form attached to the end of this report for more details.

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:

Two sediment ponds are located at the King I Mining Area, the west pond (Photo 1) and the east pond (Photo 2). Both ponds were covered with snow at the time of the inspection. The embankments for the ponds were stable with no indications of erosional features. The outlets for the ponds were observed to be clear of debris. Inlets to the ponds were clear of blockages.

Ditches throughout the facilities area and on the refuse disposal area were covered with snow. There were no indications of erosional issues or blockages. The Ditches appeared to be stable, including Reach 15 and Reach 10 (Photo 3). These ditches were reconstructed in the fall of 2023.

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The East and West Clearwater Diversion Ditches were also covered with snow during the inspection. The ditches were stable with no erosional issues. No blockages were observed.

Sumps located along the entrance road for the King I Mining area were partly covered with snow. The sumps appeared stable with no erosional concerns. The silt fences placed at the sumps' outlets were in good condition.

King II:

The sediment pond for the King II Area is located at the southern end of the facilities pad. The pond was holding a small amount of frozen water in it (Photo 4). There was no discharge from the pond. The discharge outlet was observed to be free of debris. Sediment located in the pond's northern portion of the bottom was stockpiled for cleanout. Pond cleaning operations are conducted when ground conditions allow. The sediment pond has sufficient storage capacity in its current state to handle runoff from the King II Mining Area.

Ditches throughout the King II Mining Area were clear of debris and functioning as designed (Photo 5). There were no indications of erosional features or channel escapement.

The East (Photo 6) and West Clearwater ditches were muddy during the inspection. There were no blockages or debris identified in the channels. The channels were stable with no indications of erosion.

A Sump is located behind the hydrocarbon storage shed. The sump was holding a small amount of frozen water in it. The sump was stable and there were no erosional features observed.

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

Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization; Placement:

The coal refuse for the King Mine is placed in a refuse disposal area at the King I Mining Area. There is an upper refuse disposal area (URDA Photo 7) and a lower refuse disposal area (LRDA Photo 8). The URDA was covered with snow during the inspection. The access road to the URDA was covered over with snow preventing the placement of refuse material on the pile. The slope of the URDA was stable with no erosional features. The LRDA was being used to store refuse material in a stockpile. The remaining portion of the top of the pile was graded to prevent ponding of water. The refuse material placed on the top of the LRDA was stable and contained to the LRDA. The face of the LRDA was covered with snow. The face appeared to be stable and had no erosional issues.

SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

King I:

No excess trash or debris was observed at the King I Mining Area. The site was well kept and all trash was placed in proper receptacles.

Much of the King I Mining area was covered with snow. The old bathhouse building remains on-site. The pad for the facilities was snow covered and stable. No off-site impacts were observed.

King II:

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The coal processing and loading facilities are located on the King II facilities pad. Coal stockpiles placed within the processing area were stable and kept within their designated areas (Photo 9).

Materials and supplies were stockpiled neatly in their respective laydown areas (Photo 10).

Trash was observed to be placed in roll-off dumpsters at the south end of the King II Mining Area's pad. Trash and debris were within the proper containers and no litter was observed lying about the mining area.

Fuels and Hydrocarbons were stored properly in a designated area with secondary containment (Photo 11). No spills were observed during the inspection.

No off-site impacts were observed.

SIGNS AND MARKERS – Rule 4.02:

Mine identification signs were observed to be posted at all entrances to the permit area. The signs display the mine's permit number, and contact information of the permittee and the Division. The signs were posted in unobstructed areas that were easy to spot.

TOPSOIL – Rule 4.06

Removal 4.06.2; Substitute Materials 4.06.4(4); Storage and Protection 4.06.3; Redistribution 4.06.4:

Topsoil stockpiled at the King I Mining Area was covered with snow. The stockpiled material was stable with no indications of erosion. The Topsoil stockpile at the King II Mining Area was stable with vegetative cover. There were no erosional concerns identified.

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 West Pond.



Photo 2: The King I East Pond.



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Photo 3: The base of the Reach 10 Ditch extending up to the LRDA.

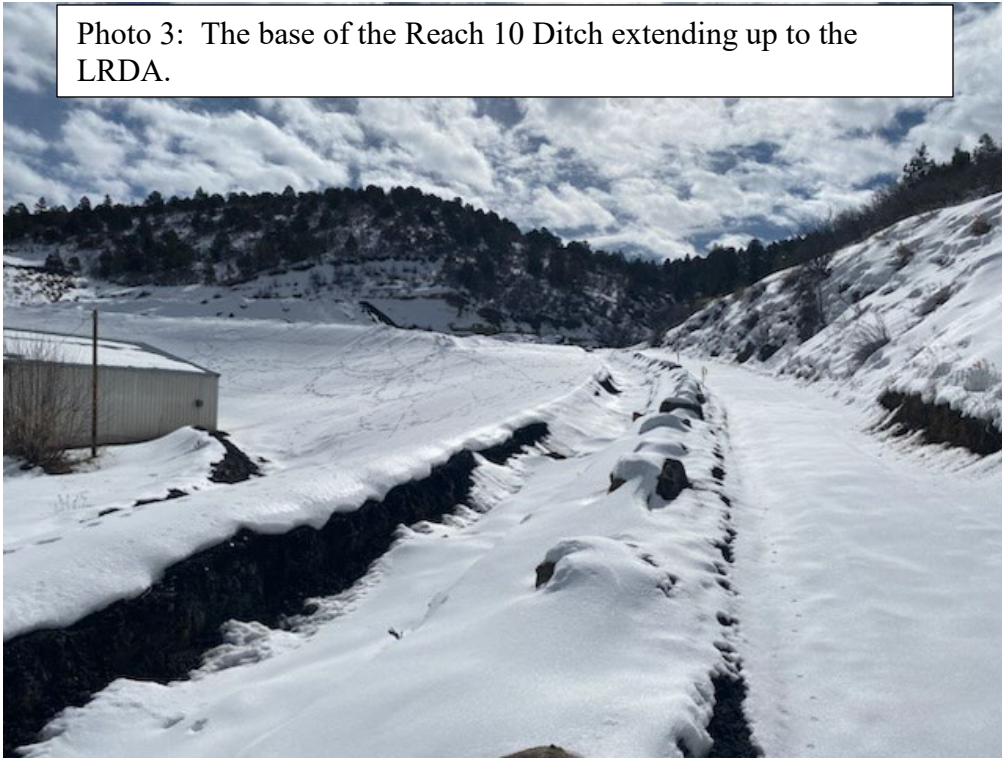
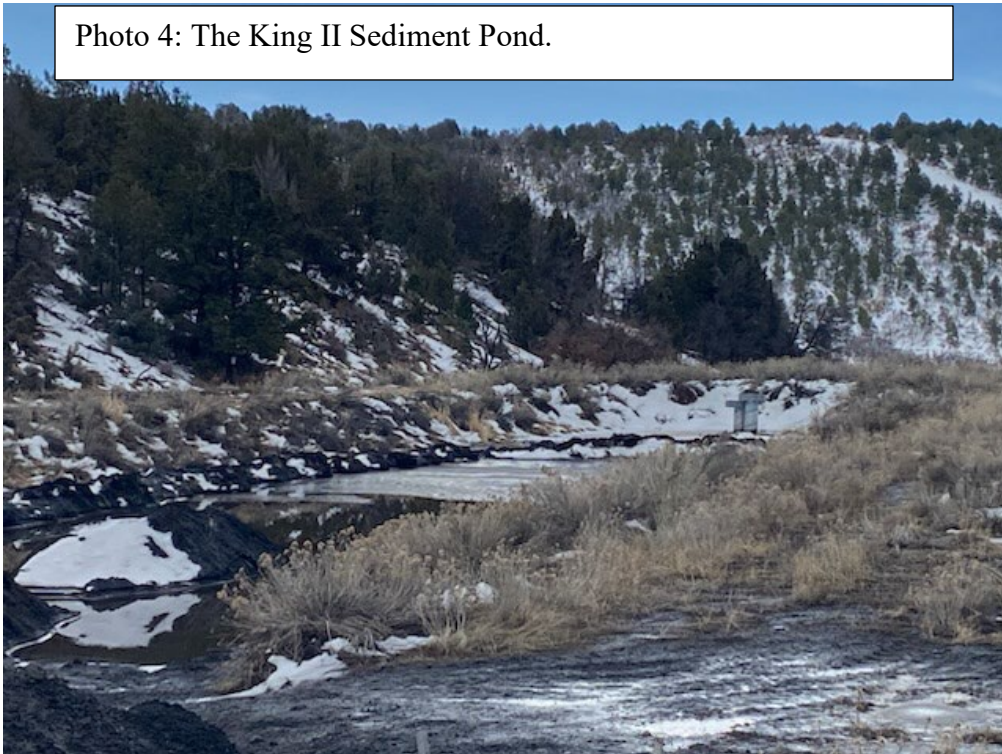


Photo 4: The King II Sediment Pond.



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Photo 5: The Ditch extending off of the conveyor portal.



Photo 6: The King II East Clearwater Ditch on the left of the berm.



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Photo 7: The URDA in the upper portion of the photo.

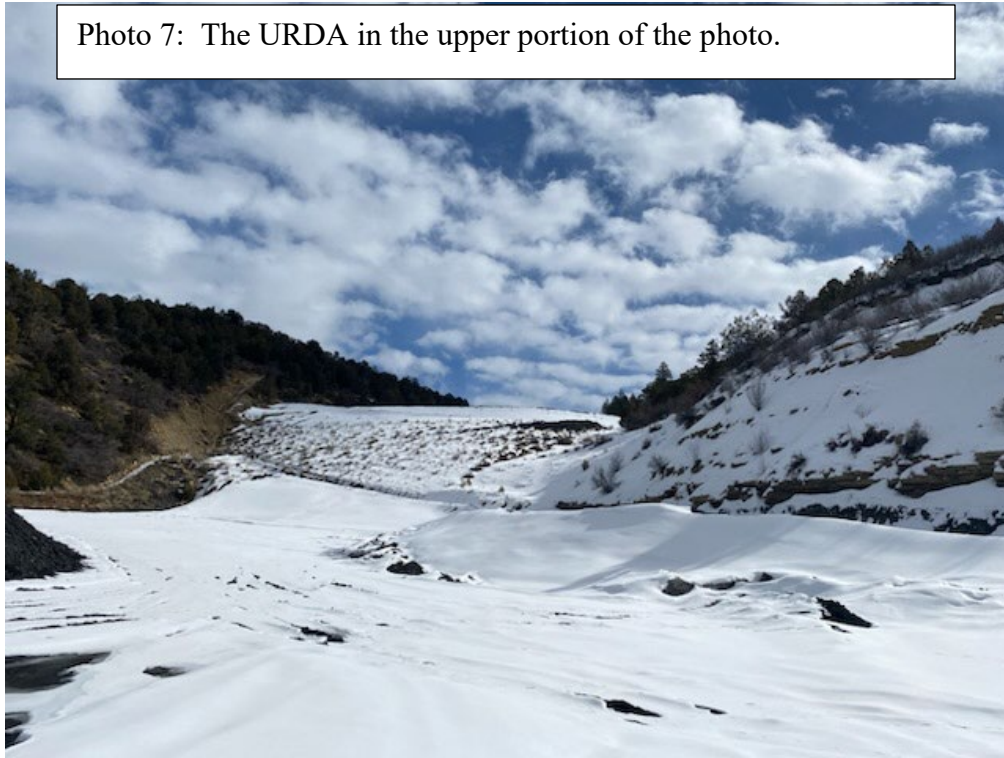


Photo 8: The top of the LDRA.



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Photo 9: One of the coal processing piles at the King II Mining Area.



Photo 10; Supplies stockpiled in a laydown area at the King II Mining Area.



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Photo 11: The hydrocarbon storage shed at the King II Mining Area.



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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 Jan. 2024
Reports/Enforcement Actions (3 Years)	
Transfers/Succession of Operator	OK
Temporary Cessation Notification	NA
Reclamation Cost Estimate	OK RN-8
CERTIFICATIONS	
Pond Certifications	Ok
Annual Certifications for Impoundments	2023
Fill Certifications for Excess Spoil or Underground Development Waste	4 th Q 2023
• Quarterly Inspections	4 th Q 2023
• Compaction Testing	Annual/2023
• Final Certification	NA
Coal Processing Waste Banks	NA
Haul Road Certifications	OK
Access Road Certifications	OK

HYDROLOGIC RECORDS

NPDES Permit	COG850001
NPDES Records	Up to 4 th Q 2023
Stormwater Management Plan	2017 OK
SPCC Plan	OK
MSHA Pond Inspections	1 st Q 2023
	NA
State Engineer's Pond Inspection	
Quarterly Pond Inspections	Up to 4 th Q 2023
Annual Hydrology Reports	2023
• 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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