



STATE OF
COLORADO

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

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

1 message

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

Thu, Jun 13, 2024 at 2:14 PM

To: McCourt Jordan <jmccourt@gcc.com>

Cc: 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 with this email is the Division's report from the complete inspection of the King Mine conducted on May 30, 2024. 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, May Complete Inspection Report_CCW.pdf
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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: Michael Dickson
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) 	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: May 30, 2024 Inspection Start Time: 09:50 Inspection End Date: May 30, 2024 Inspection End Time: 12:20		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: 6/13/2024		

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

R - 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, Permit No. C-1981-035. The inspection was conducted on May 30, 2024 by Clayton Wein of the Division. GCC Energy was represented during the inspection by Michael Dickson. The weather was clear with a temperature of 70° F. The ground conditions were dry.

AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS – Rule 5.02.4(1):

The records for the mine are located in the mine office at the King II facilities area. The records are able to be accessed via a computer with access to the Division's Laserfiche Database. The records for the King Mine were up to date. Please see the Availability of Records Form attached to the end of this report for more details.

FISH and WILDLIFE – Rule 4.18:

During the inspection of the King I area, a couple sets of large cat tracks were observed traversing the upper refuse disposal area (Photo 1). The tracks were likely from a bobcat or a young mountain lion. Also seen on the edge of the King I west pond was a mother bear and her two cubs.

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

There are two clear water diversion ditches at the King I area. Both ditches transport up gradient runoff from undisturbed areas around the refuse disposal piles. The east (Photo 2) and west ditch were dry during the inspection. The ditches were clear of debris and no erosional concerns were identified.

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

Culverts along the haul road from the lower refuse disposal area (LRDA) and the upper refuse disposal area (URDA) were observed to be clear of debris and stable (Photo 3 and 4). The ditches connecting the culverts were dry and stable. No obstructions or erosional features were identified.

Reach 13 transports runoff down the east side of the refuse disposal area from above the LRDA down to be collected in the sediment ponds. Reach 13 was dry and stable. The riprap section along the slope adjacent to the LRDA was in good condition (Photo 5). No blockages or erosional concerns were observed.

Reach 10 transports runoff on parallel to the haul road extending down the east side of the road connecting into a culvert below the LRDA. The ditch was stable and clear of debris. There were no erosional features.

Various culverts and ditches on the facilities pad feed any runoff to the east and west ponds. The culverts were clear of debris and stable. No blockages or erosional concerns were identified in the ditches.

The west pond was dry. The embankment for the pond was stable with vegetative cover. The outlet was unobstructed. A Mother bear and her two cubs were spotted running up the slope on the west side of the pond.

The east pond was also dry. The pond's embankment was vegetated and stable. There were no erosional features observed. The outlet for the pond was clear of debris.

King II Mine

At the entrance to the King II Mine there is a sump on the east side of the cattle guard (Photo 6). The sump was dry during the inspection. The silt fence was in good condition and no off site impacts were observed. The ditch paralleling the haul road was clear of debris and stable. There were no erosional features observed.

On the east side of the haul road and west of the sediment pond is a materials storage area for road base and rock. The silt fence surrounding the down gradient side was intact. There were no off site impacts observed.

The sediment pond for the King II mine was receiving a small amount of water during the inspection (Photo 7). The Pond was impounding water below the level of the discharge outlet. The outlet was observed to be unobstructed. The pond's embankments were stable with vegetative cover. There were no erosional concerns identified. Material within the pond is organized to be cleaned when conditions allow. Currently the bottom of the pond is too soft for equipment to access the material. At the inlet to the pond, a couple of large pieces of sheet metal had fallen off the bench into the ditch (Photo 8). The operator sent the Division photos of the material removed from the ditch before the end of the day on May 30th (Photo 9).

The eastern (Photo 10) and western clearwater diversion ditches were dry. The ditches were stable with no erosion.

Ditches throughout the King II Mine area were clear of blockages and water was flowing to the sediment pond as designed. Culverts throughout the area were unobstructed.

The sump located behind the hydrocarbons storage building was dry. The sump was stable with no erosional issues.

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

The refuse from the King II Mine is hauled to the King I Mine where an upper and lower refuse disposal area are used to store the material. The URDA was stable with no erosional features observed. A stockpile of refuse material was placed towards the southern end of the pile (Photo 11). Material had been spread and compacted at the north end of the pile. The operator will continue to take refuse material from this stockpile and spread and compact it on the URDA. The face of the URDA was stable with no erosional features.

The LRDA was being used at the time of the inspection to stockpile refuse material (Photo 12). The top of the pile was stable and had no erosional features. The face of the refuse pile was observed to be stable. There were no erosional features identified.

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 Mine was dry and stable. There were no erosional features observed. The drainage ditch, Reach 10, was dry and clear of obstructions.

The haul road at the King II Mine was also stable with no erosional concerns. A water truck was observed spraying the road for dust suppression during the inspection. The ditches along the haul road were clear of debris and in good condition.

SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

The Material laydown area at the King II Mine was well kept. Materials were contained within the bench and there were no identified off site impacts (Photo 13). Coal stockpiles throughout the facilities area were contained to their respective pads. No off site impacts were observed.

The hydrocarbons were all stored in the shed and placed within the secondary containment structure (Photo 14). There were no spills or liquids stored improperly.

The Barn/old parking area was stable. There were no erosional features noted. The silt fences at the down gradient side of the pad were intact and no off site impacts were identified.

SIGNS AND MARKERS – Rule 4.02:

Mine identification signs were observed posted on the entrances to the King I and King II mining areas. The signs displayed the permit number, contact information for the permittee and the Division. The signs were legible and placed in an easy to spot location.

TOPSOIL – Rule 4.06

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

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Topsoil pile markers were observed to be posted on all topsoil stockpiles at the King I and King II mines (Photo 15). The stockpiles were stable and covered with vegetation. There were no erosional features observed. Perimeter ditches for the stockpiles were stable and unobstructed. There were no erosional concerns identified. No loss of topsoil resource was observed.

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 cat tracks spotted on top of the URDA.

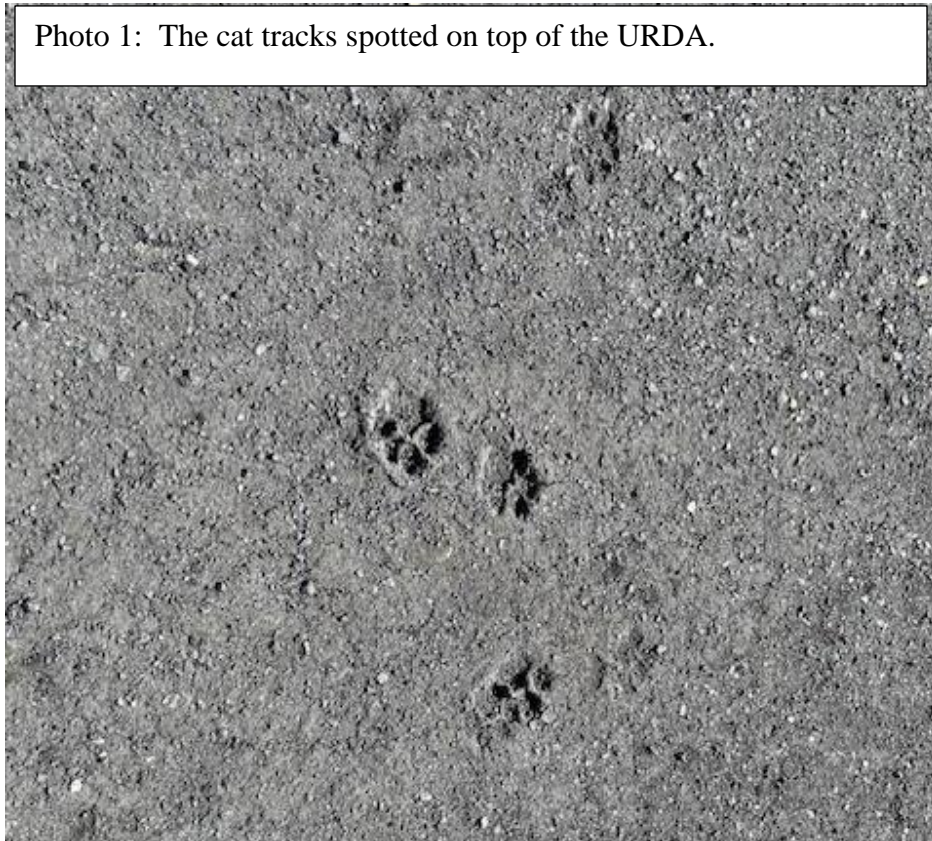
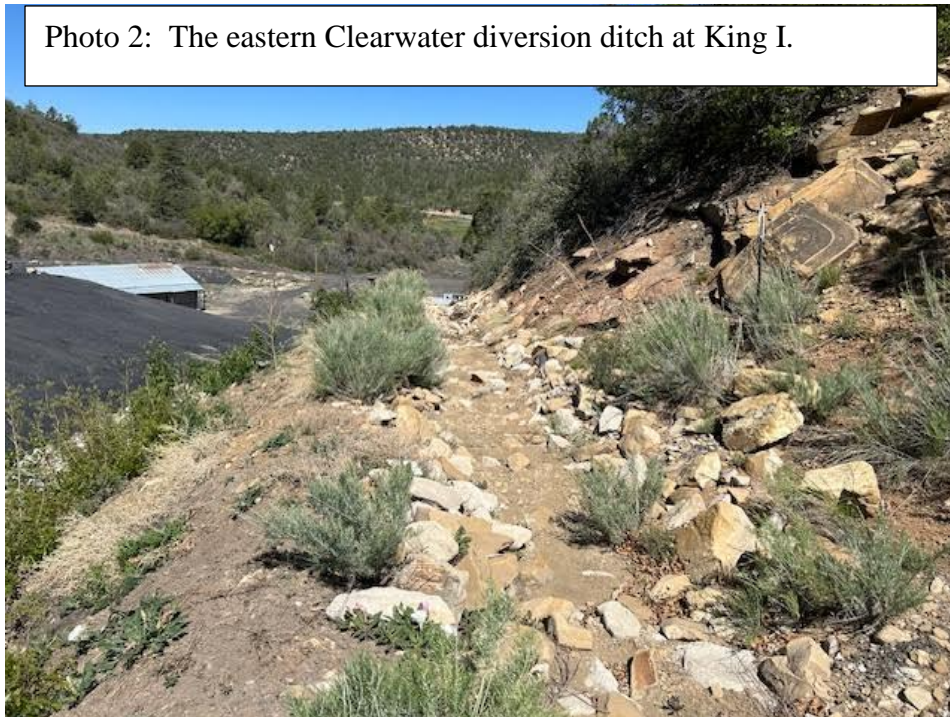


Photo 2: The eastern Clearwater diversion ditch at King I.



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Photo 3: The inlet to the upper culvert on the King I haul road.



Photo 4: The outlet to the upper culvert on the King I haul road.



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Photo 5: Reach 13.



Photo 6: The sump on the east side of the cattle guard at King II.



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Photo 7: The sediment pond at King II.



Photo 8: The sheet metal observed in the sediment pond's inlet.



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Photo 9: The cleaned inlet to the sediment pond (operator Provided Photo).



Photo 10: The eastern Clearwater ditch at King II.



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Photo 11: The top of the URDA.



Photo 12: Looking down at the LRDA from the URDA.



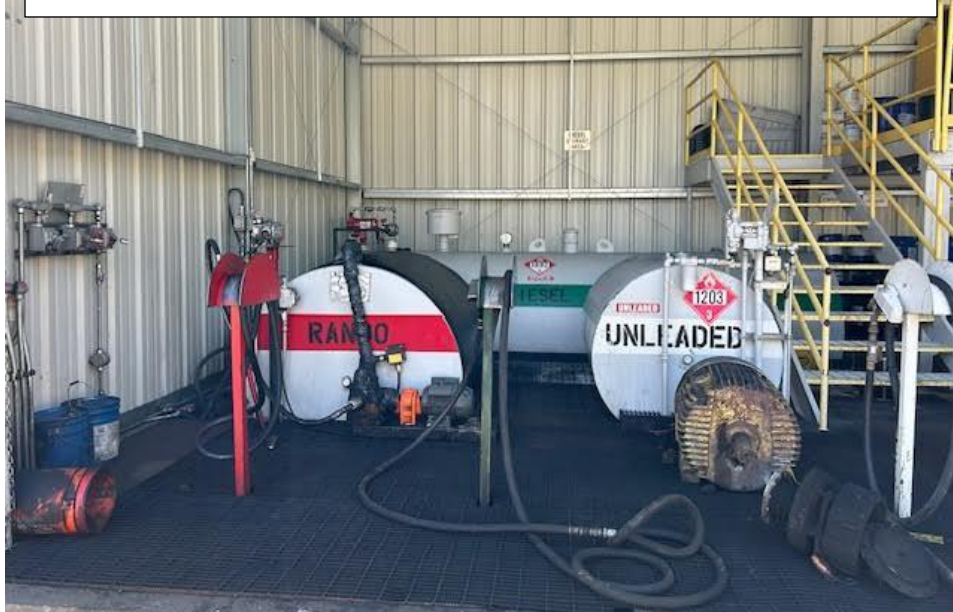
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Photo 13: Materials laydown area at King II.



Photo 14: Fuel tanks stored within the hydrocarbons secondary containment structure.



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Photo 15: The main topsoil pile marker at King II.



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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	2023
Midterm Review Documents	MT-7
DRMS/OSM Inspection Reports/Enforcement Actions (3 Years)	Up to Apr. 2024
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	1 st Q 2024
• Quarterly Inspections	1 st Q 2024
• 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 1 st Q 2024
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 1 st Q 2024
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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