

**STATE OF
COLORADO****Wein - DNR, Clayton <clayton.wein@state.co.us>**

King Coal Mine, C-1981-035, December Complete Inspection Report

1 message

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

Mon, Dec 16, 2024 at 4:09 PM

To: McCourt Jordan <jmccourt@gcc.com>

Cc: Michael Dickson <michael@summitmining.co>, Kretz Samantha <skretz@gcc.com>, Vance Sarah <svance@gcc.com>, Lucas West - DNR <lucas.west@state.co.us>

Good afternoon Jordan,

Attached is the Division's report for the complete inspection conducted on December 5, 2024. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Clayton Wein**Environmental Protection Specialist****COLORADO**
Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety
Department of Natural Resources

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1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203

clayton.wein@state.co.us | <https://www.drms.colorado.gov>**King Mine, C-1981-035, December Complete Inspection Report.pdf**

1703K



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: December 5, 2024 Inspection Start Time: 09:25 Inspection End Date: December 5, 2024 Inspection End Time: 11:30		Inspection Type: Coal Complete 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): Clayton Wein	Inspector's Signature: <i>Clayton Wein</i>		
Signature Date: 			

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

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 I and II Mine, Permit No. C-1981-035. The inspection was completed on December 5, 2024 by Clayton Wein of the Division. GCC Energy, LLC was represented during the inspection by Jordan McCourt. The weather was clear with a temperature of 35° F. The ground conditions were mostly dry with small amounts of snow in shaded areas.

AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS – Rule 5.02.4(1):

The Records for the King I and II Mine are located on a computer in the Mine office at the King II facilities. The records were well kept and up to date. Please see the attached Availability of Records Form at 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:

During the inspection, the east and west clear water diversion ditches were empty. There were no indications of blockages or erosion. The channels were stable and the embankments were covered with vegetation.

Reach 10 extends from the west side of the Upper Refuse Disposal Area (URDA, Photo 1)), down the west side of the haul road (Photo 2), and continues down the west side of the Lower Refuse Disposal Area (LRDA, Photo 3)). The upper portion of Reach 10 was stable with no blockages. The channel was armored and had small check dams in place to dissipate water velocity during runoff. The Middle portion of the channel located on top of the LRDA was well defined and stable. There were no blockages or erosional features observed. The lower portion of Reach

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 3

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2

10 extending down the west side of the LRDA, adjacent to the haul road, was in good condition. The channel was clear and stable. The rock checks were intact and no erosional features were observed.

Reach 13 extends down the eastern side of the haul road, continues on the east side of the top of the LRDA (Photo 4), and then extends down the eastern side of the face of the LRDA (Photo 5). Reach 13 was dry during the inspection. There were no erosional features or blockages observed. The lower portion of the channel was armored and in good condition. The bottom of the channel ties into a drain leading to the west pond. The drain was unobstructed.

The west pond was holding a small amount of frozen water in it during the inspection (Photo 6). The level of water in the pond was below the primary outlet. No discharge was occurring. The outlet was clear of blockages. The embankment was stable with vegetative cover. There were no erosional concerns identified.

The east pond was muddy and not holding any water (Photo 7). There was no discharge from the outlet. The outlet was clear of debris. The pond's embankment was vegetated and stable. No erosional features were observed.

The sumps located on both sides of the haul road entrance to the King I area were in good condition. The silt fences were intact and the sumps were clean of sediment.

King II:

There is one sump located at the entrance to the King II area, on the east side of the cattle guard. The sump was clean and the silt fence was in good repair.

The sediment pond for the King II facilities is located on the south side of the facilities area. The pond was holding a small amount of frozen water in it. The level of water in the pond was below the primary outlet (Photo 8). The outlet was observed to be clear of debris. More sediment had been removed from the pond since the previous inspections. The sediment from the pond is removed when conditions allow equipment access. The culvert inlets to the pond were unobstructed. The embankments were stable with vegetative cover. No indications of erosional features were observed.

Ditches throughout the facilities area were well maintained and clear of blockages (Photo 9). Small amounts of water were observed flowing throughout the ditches to the sediment pond. Culverts associated with the ditches were unobstructed and functioning as designed. The ditch located on the north side of the shop has a screen in front of a culvert to keep the culvert from plugging (Photo 10). The screen was mostly plugged up with debris. The culvert was clear of blockages though. Water was able to pass through the screen and then through the culvert. The Division recommended to the operator that the ditch be cleaned. On December 11, 2024, the Division received photos of the completed maintenance item. The ditch was clear of debris and functioning. The maintenance item is resolved.

The sump located behind the fuel storage shed was holding a small amount of water in it. There was no discharge from the sump observed. The sump was stable with no erosional concerns.

Barn Area:

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 3

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2

The barn area is located in between the King I and King II areas. The pad for the barn area was stable with no erosional features. The drainage channel was clear of debris and in good condition. The operator installed a partly buried beam at the end of the ditch to dissipate the velocity of flow prior to discharging through the silt fence. The silt fence had a short section that rolled up on itself (Photo 11). The Division recommended maintenance on the silt fence. On December 11, 2024, the Division received photos of the completed maintenance item. The silt fence had been propped back up. The maintenance item is resolved.

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

Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization; Placement:

Both of the coal waste piles are located at the King I area. The two piles are referred to as the Upper Refuse Disposal Area (URDA) and the Lower Refuse Disposal Area (LRDA). The Division's observations taken during the inspection are as follows:

The URDA was stable. The face of the pile had minor rills extending from the top to the bottom. The rills are common and do not affect the stability of the pile. If the rills increase in size the operator will patch the rills and resurface the face of the pile. The top of the pile slopes gently to the northwest to direct any runoff to reach 10 (Photo 12). The top of the pile was in good condition and there was no evidence of runoff flowing to any other portions of the pile. There was a stockpile of coal near the southern end of the pile waiting to be spread and compacted.

The LRDA was stable with no erosional concerns. The top of the pile sloped gently to promote runoff to the associated ditches. Reach 13 is located on the eastern side of the pile. The ditch was clear of debris and stable. There was a stockpile of coal refuse located on the top of the LRDA. The stockpile was contained to the top of the LRDA. The face of the LRDA was stable with minor rills (Photo 13). The rills were not large enough to affect the stability of the LRDA. If the rills increase in size, the operator will resurface the face of the LRDA. No indications of sloughs or slides were observed.

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 extends from the entrance to the site, south up to the top of the LRDA and then up to the top of the URDA. The road was stable with no major erosional features. The portion of the haul road between the LRDA and the URDA had some minor rills and ruts on it. These are common this time of the year because the haul road freezes over the night and then thaws out in the afternoons, softening the dirt. The road was traversable during the inspection. The operator will repair the road if the rills or ruts become more serious.

The haul road from the King II entrance to the facilities area was well maintained and dry. The road was stable with no erosional features. The ditch paralleling the road was clear of debris and stable.

SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 3

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King I:

The pad for the old bath house had no indications of erosion or instability. No liquids were observed to be stored at the site during the inspection. All trash was placed in the proper containers.

King II:

Facilities at the King II area include the prep plant, coal stockpiles, fuel and hydrocarbons storage, Mine office, conveyor portals, mine portals and the shop. The facilities area was well maintained. Fuels and other hydrocarbons were stored in the shed within secondary containment. All materials were stored within the associated laydown areas. No off site impacts were identified.

SIGNS AND MARKERS – Rule 4.02:

Identification signs were observed to be posted at both the entrances to the King I and King II areas. The signs displayed the mine permit number, the name of the permittee and the current contact information. The signs were posted in unobstructed areas and were clearly visible.

TOPSOIL – Rule 4.06

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

King I:

There are two topsoil stockpiles located within the King I area. The first is located on the same pad as the old bath house. The pile was stable with vegetative cover. There were no indications of erosional features. The perimeter ditch was also observed to be stable. The second topsoil pile is located on the south side of the URDA. The pile was covered with vegetation and stable. No erosional features were identified. The perimeter ditch was stable.

King II:

Two topsoil piles are located at the King II area. One is to the south and east of the sediment pond and the other is north of the air jig. The pile located adjacent to the sediment pond was stable with no erosional features (Photo 14). The pile was covered with vegetation. There was no loss of topsoil resources observed. The second pile was also vegetated and stable (Photo 15). There were no erosional concerns identified.

DOCUMENTS RECEIVED: None

OTHER (SPECIFY): None

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 3

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ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

No enforcement actions were initiated as a result of this inspection, nor are any pending.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 3

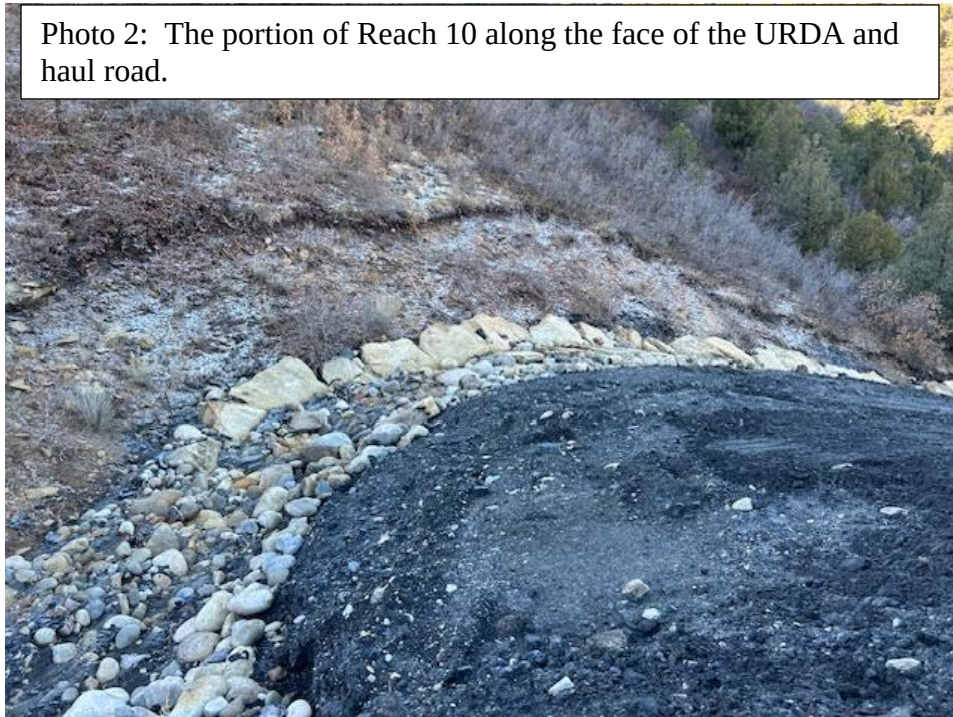
Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo 1: The upper portion of Rach 10 on top of the URDA.



Photo 2: The portion of Reach 10 along the face of the URDA and haul road.



Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 3

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2

Photo 3: The portion of Reach 10 on top of the LRDA.



Photo 4: The portion of Reach 13 on top of the URDA.



Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 3

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2

Photo 5: The portion of Reach 13 extending down the face of the LRDA.



Photo 6: The West Pond at King I.



Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 3

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2

Photo 7: The East Pond at King I.



Photo 8: The sediment pond at King II.



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Photo 9: One of the facilities ditches at the King II Area.



Photo 10: The plugged screen located adjacent to the shop at the King II area.



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Photo 11: The silt fence at the barn area that required repair.



Photo 12: The top of the URDA looking to the south.



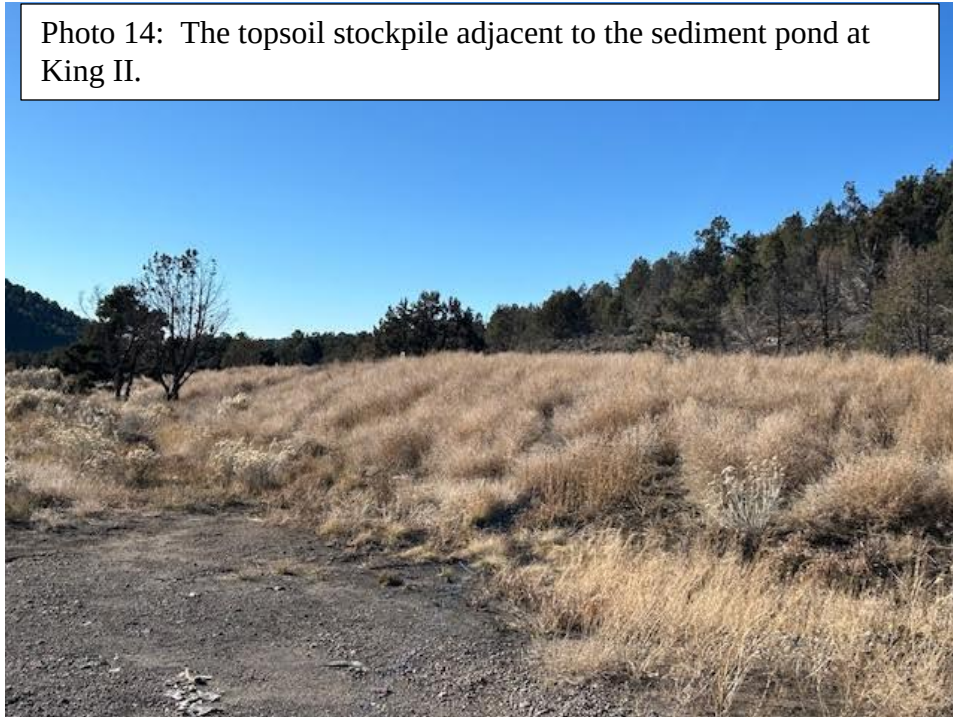
Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 3

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2

Photo 13: The face with minor rills on the LRDA.



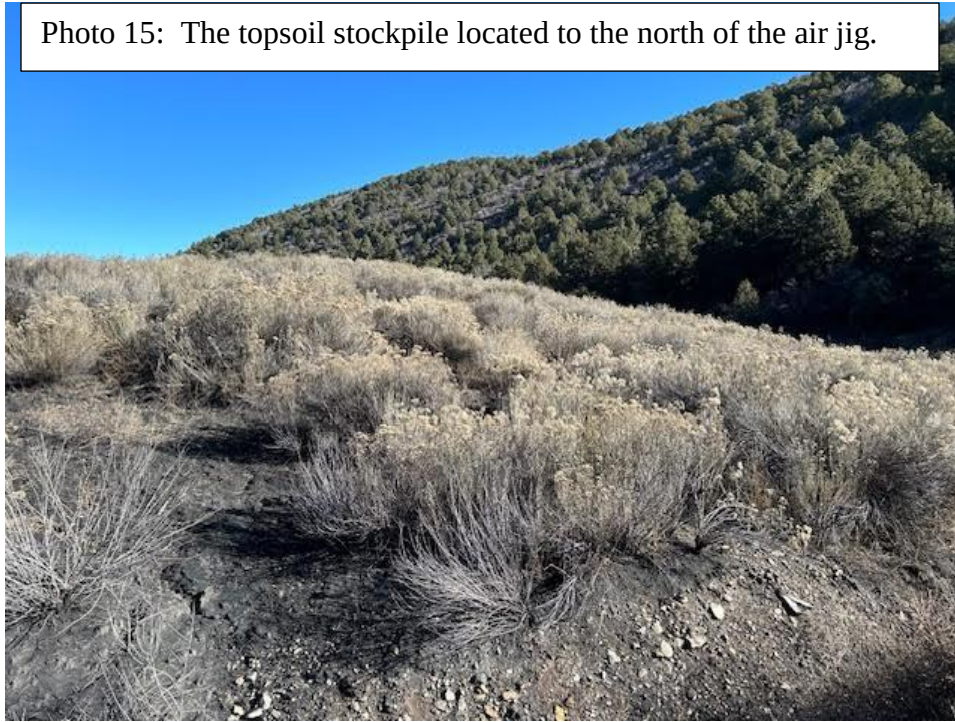
Photo 14: The topsoil stockpile adjacent to the sediment pond at King II.



Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 3

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2

Photo 15: The topsoil stockpile located to the north of the air jig.



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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. 2025
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 Nov. 2024
Transfers/Succession of Operator	OK
Temporary Cessation Notification	NA
Reclamation Cost Estimate	OK RN-8
CERTIFICATIONS	
Pond Certifications	Ok
Annual Certifications for Impoundments	2024
Fill Certifications for Excess Spoil or Underground Development Waste	2 nd Q 2024
• Quarterly Inspections	2 nd Q 2024
• Compaction Testing	Annual/2024
• 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 3 rd 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 3 rd 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:

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 3Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2