



STATE OF
COLORADO

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

1 message

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Fri, May 30, 2025 at 2:24 PM

To: McCourt Jordan <jmccourt@gcc.com>, Kretz Samantha <skretz@gcc.com>, Michael Dickson <michael@summitmining.co>, Lucas West - DNR <lucas.west@state.co.us>

Good afternoon everyone,

Attached with my email is the Division's inspection report for the complete inspection of the King Coal Mine on May 15, 2025. 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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King Mine, C-1981-035, May Complete Inspection Report.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: May 15, 2025 Inspection Start Time: 09:15 Inspection End Date: May 15, 2025 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: 5/30/2025		

Inspection Topic SummaryNOTE: **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**N** - 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 completed on May 15, 2025, by Clayton Wein of the Division. The operator, GCC Energy, was represented during the inspection by Jordan McCourt. The weather was clear with a temperature starting at 58°F. The ground conditions were mostly dry with some muddy areas and small amounts of snow in the shaded north-facing slopes.

During the inspection, the Division observed the following maintenance item being addressed:

1. During the inspection on March 26, 2025 the Division observed coal dust on the southern hillside adjacent to Coal Stack #1. The west clearwater ditch for the King II area is located at the base of this hillside. GCC needs to ensure the clearwater ditches at the King II area will not be impacted by coal dust. During the May 15th inspection, the operator was installing a silt fence on the upgradient hillside above the West clearwater ditch (Photo 1).

AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS – Rule 5.02.4(1):

The records for the King Mine are located on a computer in the mine office located within the King II Facilities. The records are accessed via the Division's Laserfiche database. The records were up to date. Please see the Availability of Records Form attached to 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 Facilities:

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 7

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 4

Three culverts are located beneath the haul road extending from the URDA down to the LRDA. The upper most culvert was in good repair. The inlet and outlet of the pipe was clear of obstructions and sediment levels were minimal. The middle culvert is placed beneath the switchback above the LRDA. The inlet (Photo 2) and outlet to the culvert was free of debris. There were no excessive amounts of sediment observed. The lowest culvert is underneath the haul road just above the LRDA and connects to Reach 10 on the LRDA. The inlet and outlet to the culvert were in good condition.

Reach 10 was observed to be clear of debris (Photo 3). The ditch was stable and there were no erosional concerns identified. There was no flow through Reach 10 during the inspection.

Reach 13 was clear of blockages (Photo 4). There were no observed erosional features or indications instability. Reach 13 was also dry at the time of the inspection. The armored portion of reach 13 on the east side of the LRDA was in good repair. There were minimal amounts of sediment within the ditch. The end of Reach 13 enters a culvert with a metal grate over it. The grate was clear of blockages.

The ditch at the base of the LRDA was dry. There were no erosional features or obstructions identified.

The culverts within the main facilities pad direct runoff to the east and west sediment ponds. The culverts were unobstructed and had minimal amounts of sediment deposited at the inlets and outlets.

The west pond was dry during the inspection (Photo 5). The inlet and outlet for the pond were observed to be unobstructed. The embankment for the pond was stable with vegetative cover. There were no erosional features were observed.

The east pond was dry (Photo 6). The inlet and outlet to the pond were clear of blockages. The embankment for the pond was stable with vegetative cover. No erosional concerns noted.

The sumps with silt fences located on the east and west side of the haul road at the entrance to the King I facilities were muddy. The silt fences were stable and in good condition. The amount of sediment deposited within the sumps was minimal. No off-site impacts were observed.

The two clearwater diversion ditches at the King I facilities, the east and west clearwater ditches, were dry. There were no blockages or erosional features observed. Sediment levels within the ditches were minimal. The concrete armored portion of the east ditch extends down the hill adjacent to the upper refuse disposal area to the adjacent hillside of the lower refuse disposal area. This portion was stable and there was no undercutting observed (Photo 7). The west clearwater ditch was observed to have minimal sediment levels within the ditch.

King II Facilities:

Drainage ditches and the associated culverts within the King II area report to the sediment pond. Drainage ditches were observed to be conveying water during the inspection. The open ditches were clear of debris and functioning as designed. There were no erosional features. Culvert inlets and outlets throughout the facilities area were unobstructed (Photo 8).

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A sump is located on the east side of the hydrocarbons/fuel storage shed. The sump was muddy at the time of the inspection. No erosional concerns or indications of instability were observed. The discharge outlet for the sump was clear of debris.

The sediment pond is located on the south end of the King II facilities. The sediment pond was holding water at the time of the inspection (Photo 9). No discharge was occurring. The discharge outlet was clear of debris. The embankments for the pond were stable with vegetative cover. There were not any erosional features observed.

The entrance to the King II Facilities and the lower portion of the haul road are permitted as a small area exemption (SAE). A sump on the east side of the cattle guard treats the runoff from the SAE. The sump was stable with no erosional concerns. The silt fence on the outlet was stable and in good repair. No off-site impacts were observed.

There are two clearwater diversion ditches, the east (Photo 10) and west clearwater ditches (Photo 11), located at the King II Facilities. The east clearwater ditch was dry during the inspection. No erosional features were identified. The diversion ditch was stable. Minimal amounts of sediment had deposited in the channel. The west clearwater diversion starts above the northwest corner of the King II area, turns south along the haul road and ends near the entrance to the mine site. The ditch was dry. There were no indications of erosional features. Some fallen dead trees were observed in the upper part of the clearwater ditch. The operator stated that the debris would be removed as soon as possible. The debris was not significant enough to plug or reduce the diversion ditches flow capacity.

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

Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization; Placement:

Two coal waste piles are located at the King I facilities. The URDA was stable with minor rills observed on the top of the pile. These rills have been noted in previous Division inspections and do not impact the stability of the pile. During the inspection a dozer was re-surfacing the face of the URDA (Photo 3). The slope was stable with no erosional concerns. A stockpile of refuse was placed on the southern end of the pile. The refuse material will be spread and compacted when conditions allow. The LRDA was also stable during the inspection. The face of the pile had no erosional features and had been recently re-surfaced (Photo 4). There was coal refuse stockpiled on the URDA. The material will be spread and compacted as conditions allow.

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 King I haul road extends south from County Road 120 to the URDA. The road was in good condition. The switchbacks between the LRDA and the URDA were in good condition and had recently been re-surfaced by a dozer. The road was stable and there were no erosional features. The associated drainage ditches were in good condition.

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The King II haul road extends north from CR 120. The road was stable with no erosional features. The associated drainage ditch was clear of blockages.

SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

The King I facilities pad was well kept. No erosional features were observed. There were no hydrocarbons observed at the site during the inspection. There is a containment structure placed near the old bath house if hydrocarbons are needed at the site.

The King II facilities area was also in good condition. Materials were organized and stored in their respective laydown areas. Trash was placed in the proper receptacles. The hydrocarbon storage shed had all materials placed in secondary containment (Photo 12). The operator has agreed to monitor the area surrounding the Coal Stack #1 for any coal dust that may be escaping as observed during the Division's March 26, 2025 inspection. The operator will propose a plan to remedy this issue once the cause has been determined.

The Ute barn area was stable with no erosional concerns. The drainage ditch was clear of debris. The silt fence at the end of the sump was observed to be in good condition (Photo 13). There were no off-site impacts were observed.

SIGNS AND MARKERS – Rule 4.02:

Mine identification signs were observed posted at the entrances to the King I Facilities, the King II Facilities and the Ute Barn Area from CR 120. The signs displayed the permittee's name and address along with the Division's permit ID number. The signs were posted in visible, unobstructed locations.

Topsoil pile markers were observed to be posted on topsoil stockpiles at both the King I and King II facilities areas. The markers were placed in unobstructed locations.

Affected/disturbed boundary markers were posted. The signs were placed in locations 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 stockpiles at the King I Facilities were covered with vegetation and stable. There were no erosional features or loss of topsoil resource observed.

Topsoil stockpiles at the King II Facilities were stable and covered with vegetation (Photo 14). No erosional features were identified. There was no loss of topsoil resource.

DOCUMENTS RECEIVED: None

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Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 4

OTHER (SPECIFY): None

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Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 4

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 new silt fence that was being installed above the King II Facilities west clearwater ditch.

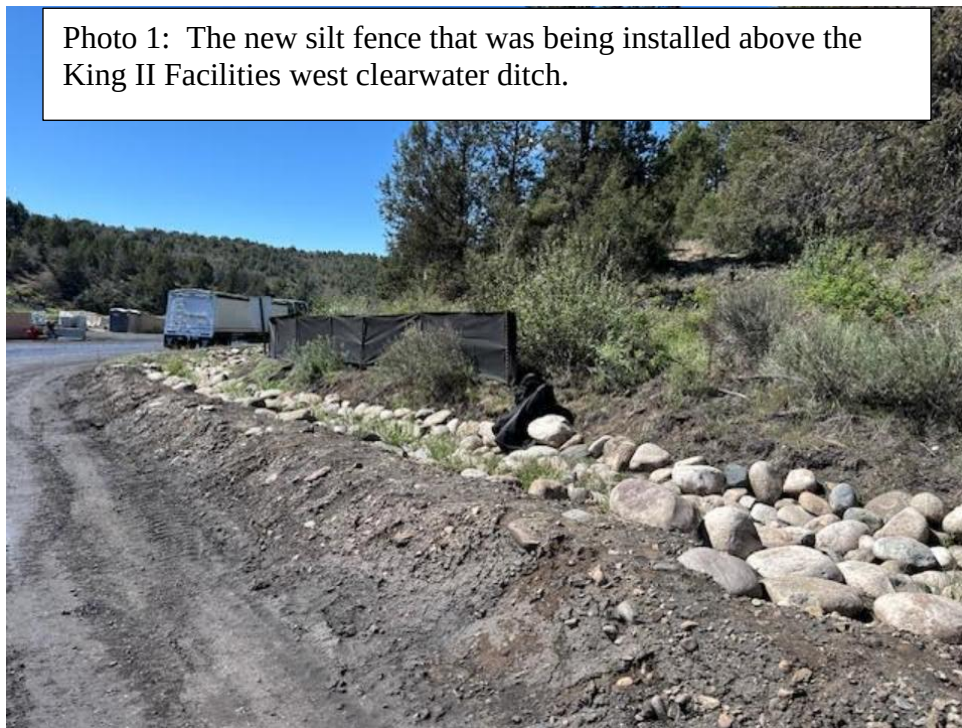


Photo 2: The inlet of the middle culvert on the upper haul road at King I.



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Photo 3: Reach 10 and the work being conducted on the face of the URDA.



Photo 4: Reach 13 and the face of the LRDA.



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Photo 5: The King I west sediment pond.



Photo 6: The King I east sediment pond.



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Photo 7: The armored concrete channel of the King I east clearwater ditch.



Photo 8: The inlet of the culvert off of the conveyor portals bench.



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Photo 9: The King II sediment pond.



Photo 10: The east clearwater ditch at King II.



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Photo 11: The west clearwater ditch at King II.



Photo 12: The hydrocarbons/fuel storage shed.



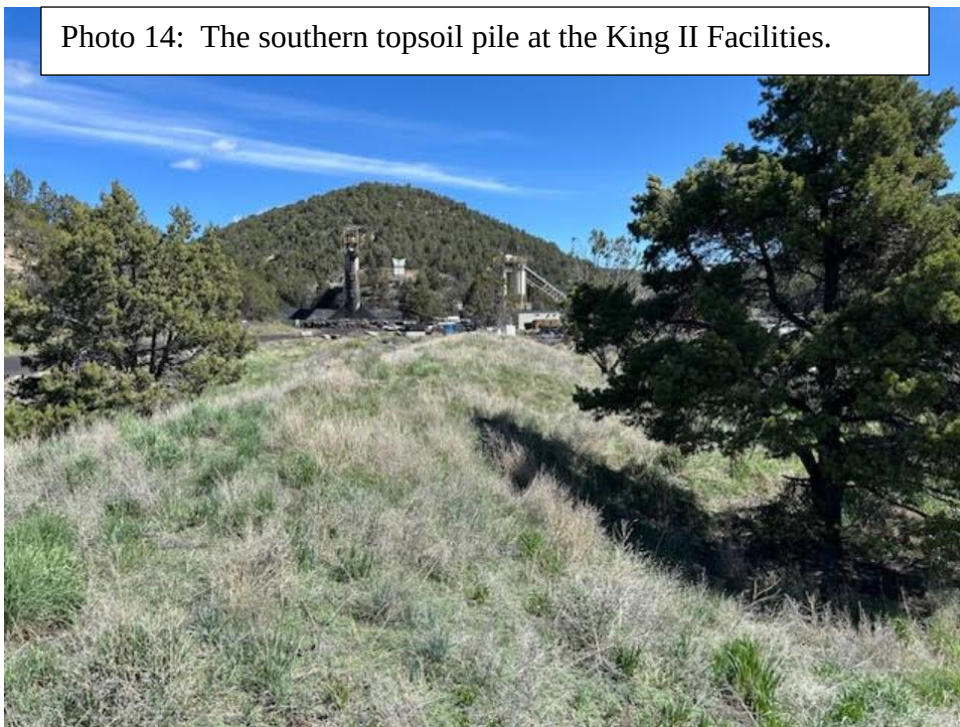
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Photo 13: The ditch and silt fence at the Ute Barn Area.



Photo 14: The southern topsoil pile at the King II Facilities.



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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	2024
Midterm Review Documents	MT-7
DRMS/OSM Inspection Reports/Enforcement Actions (3 Years)	Up to Apr. 2025
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	1 st Q 2025
• Quarterly Inspections	1 st Q 2025
• 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 1 st Q 2025
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 2025
Annual Hydrology Reports	2024
• 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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