



STATE OF
COLORADO

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

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

1 message

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

Mon, Sep 8, 2025 at 4:44 PM

To: McCourt Jordan <jmccourt@gcc.com>

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

Good afternoon Jordan,

Attached with this email is the Division's report for the complete inspection of the King Mine conducted on August 27th. Please note the item in **BOLD** text within the report regarding a new Certificate of Liability Insurance. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Clayton Wein

Environmental Protection Specialist



COLORADO
Division of Reclamation,
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Department of Natural Resources

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King Mine, C-1981-035, August Complete Inspection Report_CCW(2).pdf
2042K



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: August 27, 2025 Inspection Start Time: 09:45 Inspection End Date: August 27, 2025 Inspection End Time: 11:15		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: 9/8/2025	

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 completed on August 27, 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 63°F. The ground conditions were mostly dry with some muddy areas at the King II Mining Area. Due to the soft ground conditions at the King I Mine Area, The Division could not access the Upper Refuse Disposal Area (URDA).

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. **Please note the current Certificate of Liability Insurance is about to expire. Please submit the new certificate as soon as it becomes available via a Minor Revision.**

FISH and WILDLIFE – Rule 4.18:

When traveling along County Road 120 from the King II Mine to the King I Mine, two deer were spotted. On the trip back to the King II Mine two turkey were seen on the side of County Road 120.

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:

Reach 10 was observed to be clear of debris (Photo 1). The ditch was stable and there were no erosional concerns identified. There was no flow through Reach 10 during the inspection.

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The lowest culvert is underneath the haul road just above the Lower Refuse Disposal Area (LRDA) and connects to Reach 10 on the LRDA. The inlet and outlet to the culvert were in good condition.

The eastern clearwater ditch was observed to be damp. The ditch was stable and there were no blockages observed. The concrete portion of the channel was stable and there were no indications of undercutting. The west clearwater ditch was also damp during the inspection. There were no blockages identified. The ditch was stable and there were no erosional features seen.

Reach 13 was damp during the inspection. The channel was stable with no erosional concerns noted. The armored portion of the channel along the eastern side of the LRDA was stable and in good repair (Photo 2). The armored portion of the channel connected to the drain inlet was stable and in good condition. The inlet to the drain was clear of debris.

The ditch along the base of the LRDA was damp. No erosional features or blockages were identified.

Culverts located within the main facilities pad direct runoff to the east and west sediment ponds. The culverts were clear of debris (Photo 3). There were minimal amounts of sediment deposited at the inlets and outlets of the culverts.

The east pond was mostly damp in the bottom (Photo 4). The culvert inlet for the pond was clear of debris. The outlet for the pond was also clear of blockages. The embankment was stable with vegetative cover. There were erosional features identified.

The west pond was holding a small amount of water during the inspection (Photo 5). The water in the pond was below the discharge outlet. The inlet to the pond was damp and clear of debris. The pond's outlet was also clear of obstructions. The embankment was stable with vegetative cover. No erosional features were identified.

Sumps with silt fences are located on the east and west side of the haul road at the entrance to the King I facilities were muddy. Silt fences were observed to be stable and in good condition. The amount of sediment deposited within the sumps did not require maintenance. There were no off-site impacts were observed.

King II Facilities:

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

The sediment pond is located on the south end of the King II facilities. At the time of the inspection the sediment pond was holding water. The level of water impounded in the pond was below the primary outlet (Photo 6). The discharge outlet was clear of debris. The embankments were covered with vegetation and stable. No indications of erosion were identified.

Facilities drainage ditches and associated culverts within the King II area report to the sediment pond. The drainage ditches were conveying water during the inspection. The ditches were noted to be clear of debris (Photo 6 and 7). There were no erosional features or indications of instability. The culvert inlets and outlets throughout

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the facilities area were unobstructed. Two culverts, C-14 and C-15, required maintenance (Photo 20 and 21). The metal grates placed in front of the culvert inlets had become partly covered with debris. Both culverts were still functioning during the inspection.

The sump located on the east side of the hydrocarbons/fuel storage shed was damp during the inspection (Photo 9). There were no erosional features or indications of instability observed. The discharge outlet for the sump was clear of debris.

Two clearwater diversion ditches, the east and west clearwater ditches, are located within the King II Facilities. The east clearwater ditch was damp during the inspection (Photo 10). The east ditch was clear of debris. There were no erosional features. The diversion ditch was stable, and the amount of sediment had deposited in the channel was low. 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. During the inspection, the west ditch was mostly dry. There were no erosional features observed (Photo 11). The channel was unobstructed and stable.

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

Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization; Placement:

The coal waste piles are located at the King I facilities. The top of the URDA was inaccessible during the inspection due to soft ground conditions. The face of the URDA was stable with no major erosional features. Some minor rills were observed on the face of the pile. The rills have been noted in previous Division inspections and do not appear to impact the stability of the pile. The operator resurfaces the slope when the rills enlarge. The LRDA was also stable during the inspection (Photo 12). There were no erosional features on the face of the pile. A small amount of coal refuse was stockpiled on top of the LRDA (Photo 12). The material will be spread and compacted as spring 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. The portions of the road that conditions allowed travel were stable with no erosional features. The lower switchback between the LRDA and the URDA was in good repair. Runoff from the road appeared to be flowing to the associated drainage ditches.

The King II haul road extends north from CR 120 to the mine facilities. The road was stable and there were no erosional features. The associated drainage ditch on the west side of the road was clear of obstructions.

SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

The King I facilities pad was stable. There were no erosional features observed. The site was organized and there was not any trash or debris laying around. There were not any hydrocarbons stored on-site during the inspection. The containment structure placed near the old bath house is used if hydrocarbons are needed at the site.

The King II facilities pad was also well kept. Materials were stored in laydown areas (Photos 14 and 15). Trash was kept within the receptacles at the south end of the facilities pad. The hydrocarbon storage shed was

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organized. All hydrocarbons were placed within secondary containment (Photo 16). The hillside to the south of Coal Stack #1 was clear of coal fines. The sediment fence installed above the clearwater ditch was in good repair.

The Ute barn area was observed to be stable. There were no erosional concerns identified. The drainage ditch on the east side was clear of obstructions and sediment (Photo 17). The silt fence at the end of the sump was in good condition. There were no off-site impacts were observed.

SIGNS AND MARKERS – Rule 4.02:

Mine identification signs were posted on the entrances to the King I facilities and King II facilities from CR 120. The signs were in good repair and displayed the permittee's name, the permittee's address, and the Division's permit ID number. The signs were posted at locations that were clearly visible.

There were affected area and disturbed boundary markers posted throughout the mine site. The signs were in good repair and posted in easy to identify locations.

Topsoil pile markers were posted on topsoil stockpiles at both the King I facilities area and the King II facilities area. The markers were easy to locate and in good repair.

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 vegetated and stable (Photo 18). No erosional features or the loss of topsoil resources were observed.

The topsoil stockpiles at the King II facilities area were stable and covered with vegetation. There were no erosional features observed (Photo 19). No loss of topsoil resource had occurred.

DOCUMENTS RECEIVED

OTHER (SPECIFY)

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Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1

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: Reach 10 above the LRDA.



Photo 2: The armored portion of Reach 13.



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Photo 3: The inlet to a culvert northwest of the bathhouse.

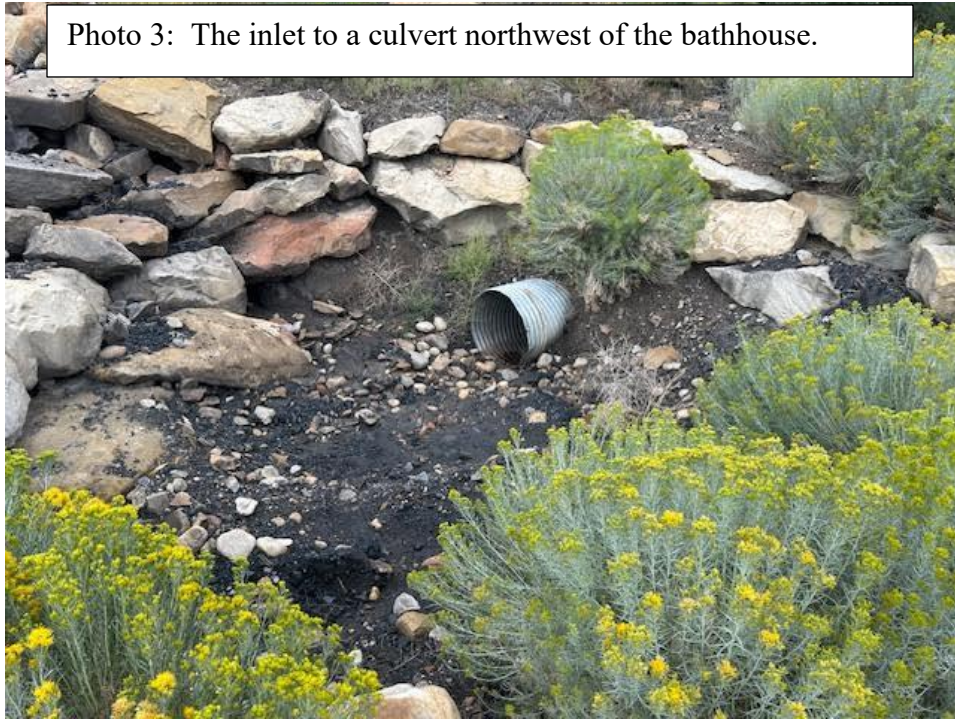


Photo 4: The East Pond at King I.



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Photo 5: The west pond at King I.



Photo 6: The sediment pond at King II.



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Photo 7: The outlet and ditch below the C-15 Culvert.



Photo 8: Manhole #1 at King II.



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Photo 9: The sump behind the hydrocarbon storage shed.

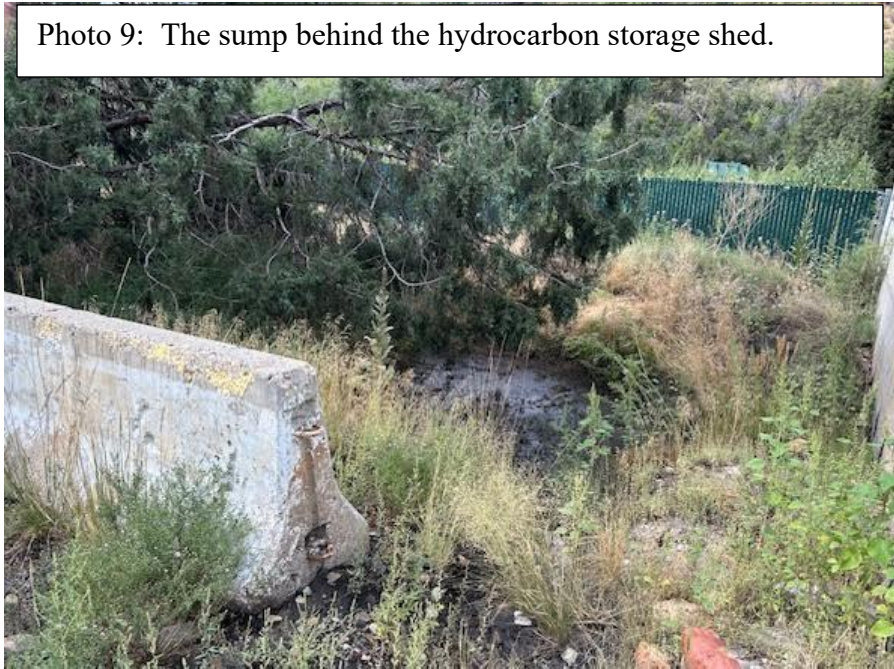


Photo 10: The King II east clearwater ditch.



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Photo 11: The King II west clearwater ditch.



Photo 12: The face of the LRDA.



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Photo 13: The top of the LRDA.



Photo 14: The laydown area at King II adjacent to the hydrocarbon storage shed.



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Photo 15: The laydown area north of the King II sediment pond.



Photo 16: The hydrocarbon storage shed.



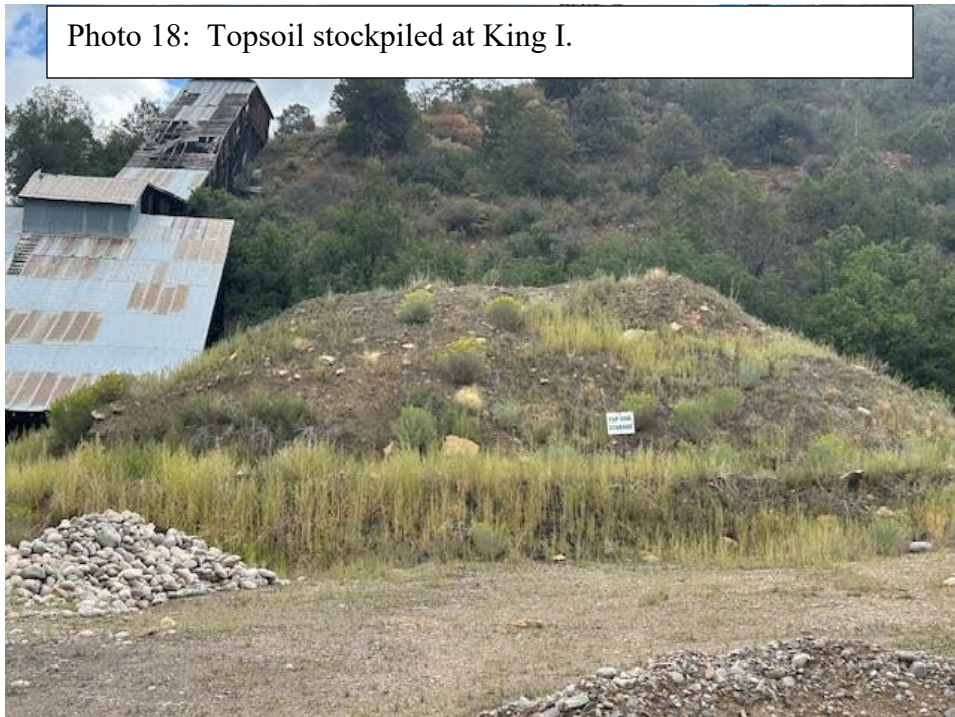
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Photo 17: The ditch and sump at the Ute Barn Area.



Photo 18: Topsoil stockpiled at King I.



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Photo 19: Topsoil stockpiled at King II west of the sediment pond.

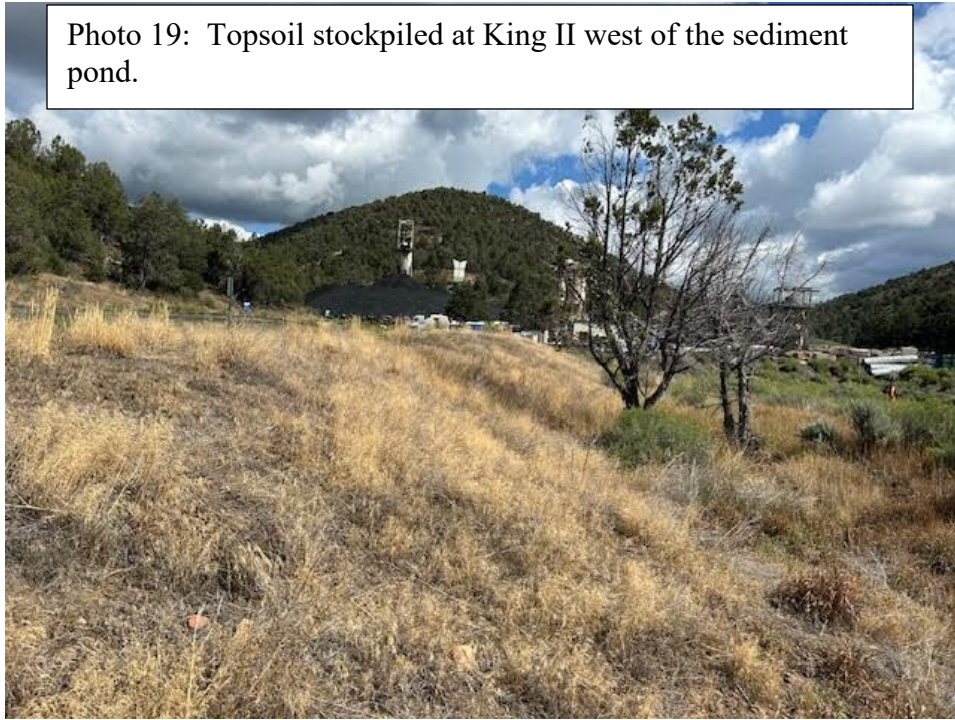


Photo 20: The inlet to the C-14 Culvert.



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Photo 21: The inlet to the C-15 Culvert.



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AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS**PERMIT RECORDS**

DRMS Permit	RN-8
Permit Application w/Revisions	OK
Findings Document	MT-9
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	Up to July 2025

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	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 2 nd Q 2024
Stormwater Management Plan	2017 OK
SPCC Plan	OK
MSHA Pond Inspections	1 st Q 202
	NA

State Engineer's Pond Inspection Quarterly Pond Inspections	**Up to 1st Q 2024
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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: * The current Certificate of Insurance Expires in September of 2025.**** 2nd Quarter Pond Inspection Reports were due by Aug. 28, 2025. The 2nd Quarter Reports have been received by the Division following this inspection.**Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 1Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1