




## COLORADO DIVISION OF RECLAMATION, MINING AND SAFETY COAL PROGRAM INSPECTION REPORT



### PERMIT INFORMATION

<b>Permit Number:</b> C-1981-035 <b>Mine Name:</b> King Coal Mine <b>Operator:</b> GCC Energy, LLC <b>Operator Address:</b> Mr. Tom Bird 6473 County Road 120 Hesperus, CO 81326	<b>County:</b> La Plata <b>Operation Type:</b> Underground <b>Permit Status:</b> Active <b>Ownership:</b> Federal
<b>Operator Representative Present:</b>  Wade Wymore	
<b>Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)</b>  This report was issued electronically from the Division's Durango Field Office.	

### INSPECTION INFORMATION

<b>Inspection Start Date:</b> March 26, 2013 <b>Inspection Start Time:</b> 10:45 <b>Inspection End Date:</b> March 26, 2013 <b>Inspection End Time:</b> 14:10	<b>Inspection Type:</b> Coal Partial Inspection <b>Inspection Reason:</b> Normal I&E Program <b>Weather:</b> Cloudy
<b>Joint Inspection Agency:</b>  None	<b>Joint Inspection Contacts:</b>
<b>Post Inspection Agency:</b>  None	<b>Post Inspection Contacts:</b>
<b>Inspector(s):</b>  Marcia L. Talvitie, P.E.	<b>Inspector's Signature:</b>  <b>Signature Date:</b>  03 April 2013

**Inspection Topic Summary**NOTE: **Y**=Inspected**N**=Not Inspected**R**=Comments Noted**V**=Violation Issued**NA**=Not Applicable**Y** - Air Resource Protection**Y** - Roads**N** - Availability of Records**N** - Reclamation Success**NA** - Backfill & Grading**N** - Revegetation**R** - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste**N** - Subsidence**NA** - Explosives**Y** - Slides and Other Damage**R** - Fish & Wildlife**R** - Support Facilities On-site**R** - Hydrologic Balance**Y** - Signs and Markers**N** - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan**NA** - Support Facilities Not On-site**N** - Other**NA** - Special Categories Of Mining**NA** - Processing Waste**N** - Topsoil**COMMENTS**

A partial inspection of the King Coal Mine was conducted by me, Marcia Talvitie of the Division, on Tuesday, March 26, 2013. Wade Wymore, the mine's Surface Supervisor, was available to represent the operator, GCC Energy LLC, and accompanied me in the field to inspect the King I and King II facilities.

Skies were overcast with high clouds, and the temperature was cool. Weather conditions for the month of March have been dry, and the gravel-surfaced portion of County Road 120, which approaches the mines from the east, was dusty. North-facing slopes in Hay Gulch still retain some snow, but flat-lying and south-facing surfaces were bare.

**PERMITTING UPDATE:**

**RN-06:** The Division issued its Proposed Decision and Findings of Compliance on March 7, 2013. Public Notice of the proposed decision was published on March 12 and 19, 2013 in the Durango Herald. The renewal will be formally issued after April 11, 2013 if no requests for a hearing before the Board are received.

**TR-20:** This application was deemed complete on March 13, 2013. The Division is currently reviewing the submittal, and will issue an adequacy review letter by April 11, 2013.

2012 Annual Reclamation Report: The ARR for 2012, which is due on March 1 of each year, has not yet been received by the Division. ***Please submit this report at your earliest convenience.***

**EXCESS SPOIL and DEVELOPMENT WASTE – Rule 4.09**

Placement; Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization:

- Coal Mine Waste (development waste) produced at the King II mine is hauled by tandem-axle dump truck to the King I mine for permanent disposal. A valley-fill "waste pile" has been previously approved for this purpose. Details regarding design, construction and reclamation of the Waste Pile are provided in the following portions of the King I permit volumes: Sections 2.05.3 (p. 3) and 2.05.4 (pp. 4-5); Appendices 10(1) and 11(1); and Maps 007, 014 and 015.
- Ground conditions at the King I Waste Pile have improved to the point where placement and compaction of coal mine waste that was end-dumped at the site during the winter (Photo 1) may now be possible. The snow had nearly all melted, and the roadway to the top of the pile was clear and dry.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 6

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 3

- ***The Division is presently conducting a review of the permitted Waste Pile design, to ensure that all requirements of the Coal rules have been properly addressed. We request that no additional coal mine waste be delivered to the top of the pile, pending the results of this review.***

FISH and WILDLIFE – Rule 4.18:

- There were numerous small mammal tracks (Photo 2) in the damp soil near the shop highwall at King I. They appear to have been made by a young coyote or young bobcat.

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:

- At both King I and King II, most of the snow had melted, and conditions were ideal for conducting routine spring maintenance of ditches and culverts. Mr. Wymore made a series of notes during the inspection regarding items in need of routine maintenance.
- King I Facilities
  - The East and West Sediment Ponds at King I were each impounding water, likely the result of the season's snow-melt. The water level was too low for discharge to occur.
  - Pond inslopes appeared to be stable, and emergency and primary discharge structures were clear.
  - Rock-lined segments of the diversion and collection ditches that carry flow beside the Waste Pile were in good condition. Some maintenance of the flat portion of the collection ditch may be required once the snow melts from that area.
- King II Facilities
  - The King II Sediment Pond was dry. The embankment and pond inslopes had good vegetative cover, although it was too early for spring regrowth to be occurring.

SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

- At King II, a steady stream of highway haul trucks was being loaded with coal for delivery to GCC's customers. The screening tower was running during the inspection, and coal was stockpiled at each of the two stack tubes.
- Work has begun on erecting the steel skeleton for the new office building at King II (Photo 3).
- At the northeast corner of the petroleum storage shed, we observed that a small amount of soil had been contaminated with oil. Mr. Wymore said the soil would be excavated, placed in a container, and removed from the property for disposal at a proper facility (Photo 4).

### **ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE**

No enforcement actions were issued as a result of this inspection, and none are pending.





Photo 1 – Development waste in King I yard area (rock-lined collection ditch in foreground)



Photo 2 – Paw prints at King I

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Photo 3 – Steel frame of new building at King II, looking north



Photo 4 – Petroleum storage shed, contaminated soil

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