




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



PERMIT INFORMATION

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

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: April 22, 2013 Inspection Start Time: 08:25 Inspection End Date: April 22, 2013 Inspection End Time: 10:15		Inspection Type: Coal Partial 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): Marcia L. Talvitie, P.E.	Inspector's Signature: 		Signature Date: 25 April 2013

Inspection Topic Summary

NOTE: Y=Inspected
V=Violation Issued

N=Not Inspected
NA=Not Applicable

R=Comments Noted

Y - Air Resource Protection

N - Availability of Records

NA - Backfill & Grading

R - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

NA - Explosives

Y - Fish & Wildlife

R - Hydrologic Balance

Y - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Other

NA - Processing Waste

Y - Roads

NA - Reclamation Success

N - Revegetation

N - Subsidence

Y - Slides and Other Damage

R - Support Facilities On-site

Y - Signs and Markers

NA - Support Facilities Not On-site

NA - Special Categories Of Mining

N - Topsoil

COMMENTS

A partial inspection of the King Coal Mine was conducted on Monday, April 22, 2013 beginning at 8:25 a.m. Skies were clear, and the temperature was approximately 50 degrees. The inspection was conducted by me, Marcia Talvitie, of the Division. Tom Bird was available to represent the operator, GCC Energy, LLC. Portions of the King I and King II surface facilities were inspected on foot. Snow cover has entirely disappeared from the area, and the ground surface was predominantly dry.

PERMITTING UPDATE:

RN-06: The Division received no requests for a hearing before the Board regarding its proposed decision to approve Permit Renewal No. 6. Therefore, the Permit was formally issued on April 18, 2013. Permit documents are being mailed to the operator for signature.

TR-20: The Division will be issuing a preliminary adequacy review of this application in the near future.

EXCESS SPOIL and DEVELOPMENT WASTE – Rules 4.09 and 4.10

Placement; Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization:

- The mine's permitted coal mine waste disposal facility ("Refuse Pile") is located in a tributary valley at the King I Mine surface facilities site. Before proceeding to the refuse pile, we reviewed the approved maps (King I-014 & -015) in the office, and discussed compaction and reporting frequencies in general.
- Loads of development waste that had been dumped on top of the refuse pile last fall have now been distributed across the top of the pile. The slope of the surface appears to generally correspond to the permit, i.e. 2% from N to S and 1% from E to W.
- We observed a number of pieces of debris on the newly placed surface, including pieces of metal and chunks of wood. It is believed that these particular loads of coal mine waste were obtained from the lowermost levels of the refuse originally placed as backfill against the highwall. The debris may have been present on the yard floor, which was not properly

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cleared before loads of refuse were originally dumped there. ***It is vitally important that all deleterious material (e.g. wood) be hand-picked from the surface of the pile before any additional refuse is deposited at the site.***

- The refuse brought to the pile in 2012 from the yard below has increased the height of the pile. Clear water continues to be diverted away from the refuse by the ditch on the north side of the pile, and this ditch will need to be relocated further up the slope in order to allow the placement of refuse to the north side of the valley (Photo 1). GCC has not yet determined how far up the slope the next phase of the clear water diversion ditch will be constructed.
- Runoff from the surface of the pile is collected by the ditch on the south side and is ultimately conveyed to the West Pond.
- Soil/overburden salvaged from the south side of the refuse pile valley in 2012 was stockpiled further up the drainage. We observed that the material has sloughed somewhat on the slopes, and that the surrounding berm/ditch needs to be reestablished, with any runoff being directed to the collection ditch along the south side of the drainage.

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:

- The King II sediment pond was dry (Photo 2). Minor re-grading work (seasonal maintenance) was under way at the area between the northern end of the pond and the haul road, where snow had been piled during the winter.
- During the March 2013 inspection, I noted that the grated inlet adjacent to the screen tower had been blocked with coal fines. That inlet was clear on this inspection, and well protected with riprap and straw wattles (Photo 3).

SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

- An inventory of coal was piled at each of the two Stacker Tubes at King I (Photo 4). The screen was not running at the time of the inspection, but highway haul trucks were being loaded with coal for transport to GCC's customers.
- Significant progress is being made on construction of the new office / bath house / storage building at King II (Photo 5).
- The northern tip of the western valley at King II is used as a non-coal equipment storage area. On this inspection, we observed that the volume of items stored at this location has increased, the placement is somewhat haphazard, and certain items are set extremely close to the posted disturbance boundary. There was no evidence of any hazardous materials or petroleum products. ***General "housekeeping" is recommended for this site*** (Photo 6).
- On the March 2013 inspection, a small amount of contaminated soil was observed at the NE corner of the petroleum storage shed at King II. That soil has been successfully removed.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

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

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Photo 1 – Clear water diversion ditch – north side of Refuse Pile, looking west



Photo 2 – King II Sediment Pond, looking south; regraded area in foreground

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Photo 3 – Grated drop inlet at foot of screening tower



Photo 4 – Stacker Tube #1 and truck loading/scale

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Photo 5 – Building construction, as seen from water tank bench



Photo 6 – Non-coal equipment storage area at King II

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