




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



### PERMIT INFORMATION

<b>Permit Number:</b> C-1981-028 <b>Mine Name:</b> Keenesburg Strip Mine <b>Operator:</b> Coors Energy Company <b>Operator Address:</b> Mr. Benjamin Moline P.O. Box 4030 Suite 400 Golden, CO 80401	<b>County:</b> Weld <b>Operation Type:</b> Surface <b>Permit Status:</b> Active <b>Ownership:</b> Private
	<b>Operator Representative Present:</b>  Danny Kipp
<b>Operator Representative Signature:</b> (Field Issuance Only)	

### INSPECTION INFORMATION

<b>Inspection Start Date:</b> September 19, 2013 <b>Inspection Start Time:</b> 09:45 <b>Inspection End Date:</b> September 19, 2013 <b>Inspection End Time:</b> 10:45	<b>Inspection Type:</b> Coal Partial Inspection <b>Inspection Reason:</b> Normal I&E Program <b>Weather:</b> Clear
<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>  Brock F. Bowles	<b>Inspector's Signature:</b>  <b>Signature Date:</b>  September 23, 2013

**Inspection Topic Summary**

NOTE: Y=Inspected N=Not Inspected R=Comments Noted V=Violation Issued NA=Not Applicable

**R** - Air Resource Protection**N** - Availability of Records**R** - Backfill & Grading**N** - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste**N** - Explosives**N** - Fish & Wildlife**R** - Hydrologic Balance**N** - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan**N** - Other**N** - Processing Waste**R** - Roads**R** - Reclamation Success**R** - Revegetation**N** - Subsidence**N** - Slides and Other Damage**N** - Support Facilities On-site**N** - Signs and Markers**N** - Support Facilities Not On-site**N** - Special Categories Of Mining**R** - Topsoil**COMMENTS**

This was a partial inspection of the Keenesburg Mine conducted by Brock Bowles of the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety. Danny Kipp of Coors Energy Company was present for the inspection. Weather conditions were sunny and warm with a light breeze. The mine received 2.83 inches of rain over 3 days the previous week. The mine site did not have any flooding or erosion events and was overall in very good condition. The ground conditions were slightly damp.

**AIR RESOURCE PROTECTION – Rule 4.17:**

No dust was generated from the mine site area including the B-Pit ash backfill area, B-Pit coverfill area, long term spoil area, Area 25 reclamation and topsand stockpiles.

**BACKFILL and GRADING – Rule 4.14** □ Contemporaneous Reclamation 4.14.1; Approximate Original Contour 4.14.2; Highwall Elimination 4.14.1(2)(f); Steep Slopes 4.14.2, 4.27; Handling of Acid and Toxic Materials 4.14.3; Stabilization of Rills and Gullies 4.14.6:

Coal ash continues to be stacked and buried in B-Pit (photo 1). Coverfill material is finished being stacked on the south end of the active B-pit area (photo 2). The area had some very small rills from the recent rains but overall was in very good condition (photo 3). Top sand soil is scheduled to be placed on the coverfill material next spring. The long-term spoil area has some minor rills from the recent rains but was also in very good condition (photo 4).

**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 dugout pond had some water in it during the rain last week but was dry during the inspection. Sediment pond 2 had about a foot of water during the rains but only the west end of the pond contained some water during the inspection (photo 5). The road ditch by sediment pond 2 is free of debris and well maintained (photo 6).

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 3

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1

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 main haul road for the B-pit was well maintained. All other access roads were well maintained.

RECLAMATION SUCCESS - Rule 4.15, Rule 3:

Cheatgrass is starting to germinate in all areas of the mine. The pre-emergent herbicide Panoramic was applied last month to control and buffer the cheatgrass invasion of reclaimed areas. At this time it is unclear the effectiveness of the application. Mr. Kipp speculates the heavy rains received by the mine last week may have diluted the herbicide making it ineffective. Very little cheatgrass is germinating in the areas treated with Panoramic last summer (photo 7).

REVEGETATION – Rule 4.15 □ Vegetative Cover; Timing:

Many of the planted species in Area 25 sprouted in the spring and have gone to seed. Since the rains last week many species have germinated again. The area has many annuals species which are expected the first year after seeding. The area also has puncturevine (*Tribulus terrestris*) which is a class C weed. The puncturevine is mostly in the newly revegetated area and should be monitored that it remains in Area 25. If it becomes the dominant plant species or begins to colonize areas beyond Area 25, it will need to be treated

TOPSOIL – Rule 4.06 □ Removal 4.06.2; Substitute Materials 4.06.4(4); Storage and Protection 4.06.3; Redistribution 4.06.4:

The topsand storage areas appeared to be stable and had minor rills on the south side from the rain event. There was no loss of topsand.

**DOCUMENTS RECEIVED: None**

### **ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE**

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

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## PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1 – Coal Ash Backfilled

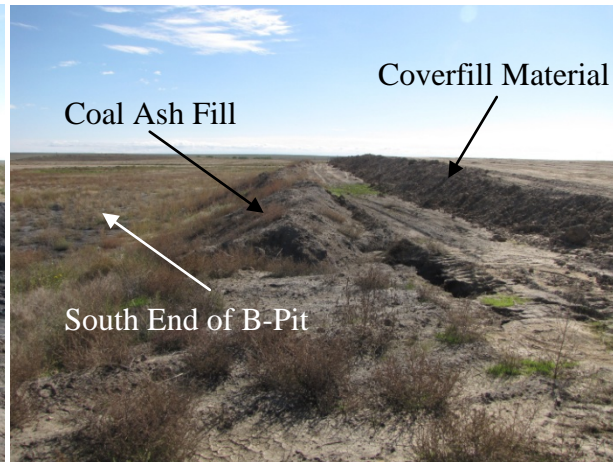


Photo 2 – Coverfill Material Backfilled to Coal Ash



Photo 3 – Coverfill Material on B-Pit



Photo 4 – Long-Term Spoil Area



Photo 5 – Sediment Pond 2



Photo 6 – Road Side Ditch

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Photo 7 – Cheatgrass Treated with Panoramic

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