




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



## PERMIT INFORMATION

<b>Permit Number:</b> C-1981-037 <b>Mine Name:</b> GEC Strip Mine <b>Operator:</b> GEC Minerals, Inc. <b>Operator Address:</b> Dr W Corley 2605 Constellation Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80906	<b>County:</b> Fremont <b>Operation Type:</b> Surface <b>Permit Status:</b> Revoked <b>Ownership:</b> Private
	<b>Operator Representative Present:</b>  NA
<b>Operator Representative Signature:</b> (Field Issuance Only)	

## INSPECTION INFORMATION

<b>Inspection Start Date:</b> September 17, 2013 <b>Inspection Start Time:</b> 15:30 <b>Inspection End Date:</b> September 17, 2013 <b>Inspection End Time:</b> 17:00	<b>Inspection Type:</b> Coal Complete 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>  Janet H. Binns  Robert D. Zuber, P.E.	<b>Inspector's Signature:</b>  <b>Signature Date:</b> 9/25/2013

**Inspection Topic Summary**

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

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

**COMMENTS**

This was a complete inspection conducted by Janet Binns and Rob Zuber of DRMS. The GEC Strip Mine is a reclaimed surface mine that has undergone bond revocation and permit termination. The Division completed the reclamation of the site with the reclamation bond monies. No funds remain for reclamation or maintenance activities on the GEC Strip Mine site. The Division is in the process of terminating its jurisdiction on this site.

The region experienced heavy rains the week preceding the inspection. Rainfall events recorded on the CoCoRHas website (A precipitation recording website) for September 15, 2013 to September 16, 2013 measured 0.75" @ station CO-FM-76, CO-FM-2 1.74", and CO-FM-67 1.3". These station locations are, in order; east of State Highway 67, Williamsburg, and Florence. It is extrapolated that the rainfall at the mine site for that time period was likely within that range. There are no rain gages located at the GEC Mine or at the adjacent Southfield Mine to get an accurate precipitation measurement for the GEC Strip Mine site.

**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, 4.14.3; Stabilization of Rills and Gullies 4.14.6:

Side slopes of the reclaimed East Pit, West Pit, and Chen's Hill continue to exhibit signs of sediment movement. Sediment no longer is deposited in the remaining sediment pond adjacent to Fremont County Road No. 92, but is deposited in the ditch and on the east side of the county road. No apparent new gullies were noted, but existing large gullies show signs of additional sediment movement after the recent storms.

**FISH and WILDLIFE – Rule 4.18:**

Although no large animals were observed on the mine site during the inspection, Elk tracks and scat were observed throughout the site. Small lizards were observed occasionally throughout the reclaimed East Pit and West Pit.

**HYDROLOGIC BALANCE - Rule 4.05**

Drainage Control 4.05.1, 4.05.2, 4.05.3; Siltation Structures 4.05.5, 4.05.6; Diversions 4.05.4; Effluent Limits

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 1

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1

## 4.05.2:

No functional sediment ponds remain on the mine site. All remaining sediment ponds have filled with sediment or failed. Ditches continue to show additional downcutting in steep sections and sediment deposition in flatter stretches.

The reconstructed Newlin Creek permanent channel immediately upstream of the Thompson driveway has held up well. There were puddles in this drainage, but no actual flow at the time of the inspection. There were signs that Newlin Creek had flowed across this stretch of permanent drainage.

ROADS – Rule 4.03 □ 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 access road from the east side of the Southfield Pond No. 5, to the east side of the GEC permit area continues to show signs of sediment deposition. The road is passable by a standard SUV. Two locations along the western curve of this road have been narrowed by gullying into the ditch.

RECLAMATION SUCCESS - Rule 4.15, Rule 3:

The majority of the reclaimed areas appear to have stabilized with a grassland community. Portions of the steeper slopes and drainages continue to erode. Sediment is deposited on the flatter slopes and drainages.

REVEGETATION – Rule 4.15 □ Vegetative Cover; Timing:

Late season precipitation has allowed for additional vegetative growth on the site. Many of the warm season grasses; Side-oats grama, and Blue grama had well developed seed heads. Rabbit brush was blooming. Very few noxious weeds were encountered. One small patch (approx. 3 ft. x 4 ft.) of Knapweed was observed along the access road between the West Pit and the East Pit. Much of the site has a well established grassland community stabilizing the site. Locations that have gullied in the past continue to do so. Reclaimed areas with steep slopes and thin top soils continue to show bare patches and sediment movement.

SLIDES and DAMAGE - Rule 4.12:

Gullies and sediment deposition are the main concern on this site. No bond monies remain for maintenance or repairs on this site.

**DOCUMENTS RECEIVED: NA**

**OTHER (SPECIFY) None**

### **ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE**

The GEC Strip Mine Permit has been terminated and the bond revoked by the Division. All bond monies have been spent previously on reclamation of the GEC site.

### **PHOTOGRAPHS**

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Photo 1: South end of East Pit



Photo 2: West pit looking towards south



Photo 3: Ridge between East Pit and West Pit.



Photo 4: East Pit looking northward



Photo 5: Gully at bottom of East pit slope



Photo 6: looking southward from northern end of East Pit

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