




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



PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1981-022 Mine Name: Elk Creek Mine Operator: Oxbow Mining, LLC Operator Address: Mr. Jim Kiger P.O. Box 535 3737 Highway 133 Somerset, CO 81434	County: Delta, Gunnison Operation Type: Underground Permit Status: Active Ownership: Federal
	Operator Representative Present: Jim Kiger
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: October 9, 2013 Inspection Start Time: 09:00 Inspection End Date: October 9, 2013 Inspection End Time: 15:30		Inspection Type: Coal Partial Inspection Inspection Reason: Normal I&E Program Weather: Cloudy	
Joint Inspection Agency: None		Joint Inspection Contacts:	
Post Inspection Agency: None		Post Inspection Contacts:	
Inspector(s): Brock F. Bowles Sandra L. Brown	Inspector's Signature:  Signature Date: October 11, 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**N** - Backfill & Grading**N** - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste**N** - Explosives**R** - Fish & Wildlife**R** - Hydrologic Balance**N** - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan**N** - Other**N** - Processing Waste**R** - Roads**N** - Reclamation Success**N** - 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**N** - Topsoil**COMMENTS**

This was a partial inspection of the Elk Creek Mine conducted by Brock Bowles and Sandra Brown of the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining & Safety. Jim Kiger of Oxbow Mining, LLC was present for the inspection. The weather was overcast and the ground was dry.

The Northeast Main mine seals remain sealed and it has been determined by Oxbow Mining, LLC that they will not be able to retrieve the longwall miner. The remainder of Panel 18 and all of Panel 19 is being abandoned. Oxbow continues the development work in the new east lease area and is working with the Forest Service and BLM for a mine plan modification for an area north of the current east lease area. Oxbow is also working with the BLM for a lease modification to ramp down to the B-Seam and mine the coal behind the old Somerset Mine that is still within the current permit boundary. The Federal Government is shut down right now so the lease modifications are on hold.

AIR RESOURCE PROTECTION – Rule 4.17:

A coal train was being loaded during this inspection. Coal was not being stacked but a hot spot in the coal pile was being treated by a dozer and water hose. There were no signs of fugitive dust on site or off.

FISH and WILDLIFE – Rule 4.18:

A red-tailed hawk was seen on the Bear Creek Road with a squirrel in its talons that eventually got away. The hawk flew back into the trees in pursuit of the squirrel.

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:

Ponds A, B and East Yard contained water but none were discharging. Ponds F (photo 1) and Hubbard Creek (photo 2) were dry and the outfalls were free and clear of debris. The pond cleanings that were drying in the East Yard pond reported in the August 6, 2013 report had been removed.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 5

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1

Water was not being discharged from the temporary discharge point 015B. Since the longwall miner recovery efforts have ceased, the pumps were turned off. Most of the equipment on the well pad had been removed. Some water remained in the small pond below the pad but all the other areas appeared to be dry (photo 3). Equipment was being moved to the pad-site to remove the pumps before winter. It is estimated that the pad will be reclaimed next year. The sediment control waddles around the base of the well pad need to be re-installed. Some of the stakes have pulled out and the waddles were not in contact with the soil surface.

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 Bear Creek and Hubbard Creek Roads were well maintained and passable. The light use roads up to the 015B discharge well pad were passable. The access roads around the mine facilities area were well maintained.

DOCUMENTS RECEIVED - None

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

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

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1 – Pond F



Photo 2 – Hubbard Pond

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