




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



## PERMIT INFORMATION

<b>Permit Number:</b> C-1996-084 <b>Mine Name:</b> Lorencito Canyon Mine <b>Operator:</b> New Elk Coal Company, LLC <b>Operator Address:</b> Mr Ron Thompson 12250 Highway 12 Weston, CO 81091	<b>County:</b> Las Animas <b>Operation Type:</b> Surface <b>Permit Status:</b> Permanent Cessation <b>Ownership:</b> Private
	<b>Operator Representative Present:</b>  Bobby Steele
<b>Operator Representative Signature:</b> (Field Issuance Only)	

## INSPECTION INFORMATION

<b>Inspection Start Date:</b> November 5, 2013 <b>Inspection Start Time:</b> 15:00 <b>Inspection End Date:</b> November 5, 2013 <b>Inspection End Time:</b> 16:30		<b>Inspection Type:</b> Coal Partial Inspection <b>Inspection Reason:</b> Normal I&E Program <b>Weather:</b> Foggy	
<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>  Leigh D. Simmons	<b>Inspector's Signature:</b>  		<b>Signature Date:</b>  November 13, 2013

**Inspection Topic Summary**

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

NA - Air Resource Protection

N - Availability of Records

NA - Backfill &amp; Grading

R - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

NA - Explosives

N - Fish &amp; Wildlife

R - Hydrologic Balance

R - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

NA - Other

NA - Processing Waste

N - Roads

N - Reclamation Success

N - Revegetation

NA - Subsidence

NA - Slides and Other Damage

NA - Support Facilities On-site

R - Signs and Markers

N - Support Facilities Not On-site

N - Special Categories Of Mining

N - Topsoil

**COMMENTS**

This was a partial inspection by Leigh Simmons of Colorado Division for Reclamation, Mining and Safety, (the Division). The inspection was accompanied by Bobby Steele of New Elk Coal Company, (NECC). The weather was foggy and cold.

Several permitting actions are in progress, these are detailed under the heading GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE.

No further work had taken place at Lorencito Canyon since the October inspection as resources had been allocated at the New Elk mine. Mr Steele described plans to send people and equipment back to Lorencito in January/February to conduct rill and gully repair, and re-seed areas as necessary, other projects that suggest themselves include re-routing water flow from the road above the shrub plot and cleaning out sediment ponds as necessary. Erosion control on the slope above pond 6 is another project that should be tackled, although it is not presently clear how best to achieve this.

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

Placement; Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization:

Fills 7, 8 and 9 were all stable and in good shape.

**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 9/9b, 6 and 8 were inspected. All ponds were in good shape; the water levels had dropped, but not yet sufficiently to assess whether or not the ponds need to be cleaned of sediment.

Pond 5 was difficult to access given the weather conditions, however the drainage area at the top was inspected and was adequate, although Elk had been nibbling at the bales.

Ponds 7 and 9a were not inspected.

The plan to route water running off the road through culvert C5 was discussed again and the intention was to go ahead.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 3

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2

**GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE:**

At present two permitting actions are progress:

- RN3 - The proposed decision due date has been extended to December 31, 2013. The Division is waiting on an updated list of Officers and Directors.
- TR18 - The proposed decision due date has been extended to June 1, 2014. The Division is awaiting a response to the adequacy letter of May 29, 2013.

**SIGNS AND MARKERS – Rule 4.02:**

The mine ID sign had been updated to include the telephone number for the Division and was in full compliance.

**DOCUMENTS RECEIVED**

N/A

**OTHER (SPECIFY)**

N/A

**ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE**

No enforcement actions are necessary at this time.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 3

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2

**PHOTOGRAPHS**

Photo 1: Mine ID sign



Photo 2: Pond 8



Photo 3: Pond 6



Photo 4: Above pond 5 (1)



Photo 5: Above pond 5 (2)

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 3Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2