



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



### PERMIT INFORMATION

<b>Permit Number:</b> C-1981-019 <b>Mine Name:</b> Colowyo Coal Mine <b>Operator:</b> Colowyo Coal Company L.P. <b>Operator Address:</b> Mr. Tony Tennyson 5731 State Highway 13 Meeker, CO 81641	<b>County:</b> Moffat, Rio Blanco <b>Operation Type:</b> Surface <b>Permit Status:</b> Active <b>Ownership:</b> Federal
<b>Operator Representative Present:</b>	
<b>Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)</b>	

### INSPECTION INFORMATION

<b>Inspection Start Date:</b> November 19, 2013 <b>Inspection Start Time:</b> 14:00 <b>Inspection End Date:</b> November 20, 2013 <b>Inspection End Time:</b> 11:30	<b>Inspection Type:</b> Coal Partial Inspection <b>Inspection Reason:</b> Normal I&E Program <b>Weather:</b> Cloudy
<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>  Robert D. Zuber, P.E.	<b>Inspector's Signature:</b>  <i>Robert D. Zuber</i>  <b>Signature Date:</b>  11/19/2013

**Inspection Topic Summary**

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

N - Air Resource Protection

N - Availability of Records

R - Backfill &amp; Grading

R - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

N - Explosives

N - Fish &amp; Wildlife

R - Hydrologic Balance

R - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Other

NA - Processing Waste

R - Roads

N - Reclamation Success

N - Revegetation

NA - Subsidence

R - Slides and Other Damage

R - Support Facilities On-site

N - Signs and Markers

NA - Support Facilities Not On-site

NA - Special Categories Of Mining

R - Topsoil

**COMMENTS**

A partial inspection was conducted by Rob Zuber of DRMS on the afternoon of November 19, 2013 and the morning of November 20, 2013. The Colowyo employee who participated in the field inspection was Kurt Blunt. The weather was cloudy on both days. The ground was muddy.

Mining activities in the South Taylor Pit included:

- In the South Taylor Pit, highwall mining is underway at the south end of the pit. A small quantity of coal was coming off the conveyor and forming a pile.
- In the upper part of South Taylor Pit (western portion) the 115 excavator was removing F1 overburden.
- In the upper part of South Taylor Pit a dozer was cleaning coal and a coal drill rig was moving into the pit.

Regarding the highwall mining, Lee Sampson (Colowyo engineer) indicated in the office that the first entry has progressed approximately 400 feet into the wall. Kurtis Blunt indicated that Colowyo reports progress to the BLM.

Some areas were not accessed due to the muddy conditions: the road along Taylor Creek and the ponds in that area (West Taylor, East Taylor, and West Pit); East Pit reclamation.

**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:

No scrapers are working on the West Pit spoil pile. Other than construction of contour ditches, reclamation is done in this area (“Hink’s Peak”) per Colowyo staff.

In the West Pit, the 103 dragline was moving spoil.

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**EXCESS SPOIL and DEVELOPMENT WASTE – Rule 4.09****Placement; Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization:**

The upper portion of the West Taylor Fill was viewed from the hillside to the east, and no erosion or other problems were identified.

**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:

Snowmelt runoff was seen flowing in some areas of the mine site, including the inlet to Prospect Pond.

Prospect and Rail Loop Ponds were holding water but not discharging. The following ponds were discharging: Gossard, Stoker Siding, and Work Area (all very small discharges). The Gulch A Pond was dry. For all discharging ponds, no sign of pollutants was observed. No major problems were found with embankments or other structures.

The following additional observations were made regarding ponds:

- Prospect Pond was no longer being cleaned; this has been completed for 2013. The average sediment level appeared to be approximately 5 feet below the lowest weep hole on the spillway.
- The sump for Gossard Pond was holding water, but it appeared that there was very little sediment in this structure.
- The flume below the Rail Loop Pond requires cleaning.
- At Stoker Siding Pond, muskrats continue to plug the lower holes of the primary spillway. The pond remains functional.

Culvert K was being cleaned during the inspection.

**GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE:**

The Colowyo Coal Mine was generally found to be in compliance with the mine plan.

**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):

Given the muddy conditions, haul roads were in good shape, and a scraper was seen working on the haul road near the West Pit.

**SLIDES and DAMAGE - Rule 4.12:**

The slide below the Section 28 Ditch was viewed from the hillside above. No evidence of new movement

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was detected, but this area should be observed in the future using aerial photographs.

**SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:**

The main repeater station (near the east side of the West Taylor Fill) was inspected and no erosion or other problems were seen.

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

Topsoil Stockpile 16I was viewed from the road below; no erosion or other problems were identified.

**DOCUMENTS RECEIVED**

Submittals (three copies each) for MR-129 and MR-130.

**ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE**

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

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**PHOTOGRAPHS**



**Prospect Pond, from inlet**



**Gossard Pond spillways**

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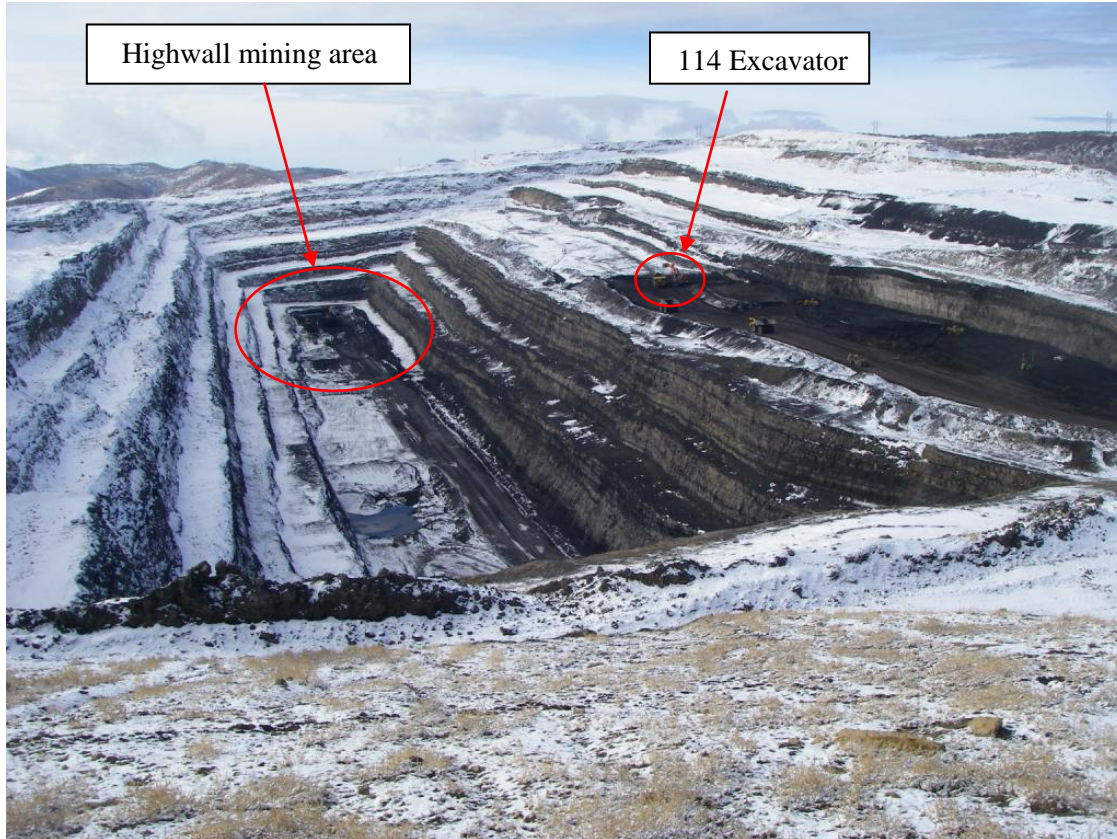
**Highwall mining operation in South Taylor Pit**



**Slide area below Section 28 Ditch**

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**South Taylor Pit, looking south**

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