




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: December 11, 2013 Inspection Start Time: 14:00 Inspection End Date: December 11, 2013 Inspection End Time: 15:40		Inspection Type: Coal Partial Inspection Inspection Reason: Normal I&E Program Weather: Clear	
Joint Inspection Agency: None		Joint Inspection Contacts:	
Post Inspection Agency: None		Post Inspection Contacts:	
Inspector(s): Susan L. Burgmaier	Inspector's Signature: 		Signature Date: 12/13/2013

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

This was a partial inspection of the Elk Creek Mine conducted by Susan Burgmaier of CDRMS. Jim Kiger of Oxbow Mining, LLC was present during the inspection. Weather conditions were clear and cold (30 degrees); there was 8-10" of snow on the ground.

Production at the mine ceased temporarily on December 5, 2013. The operator did not have an indication of when mining might recommence. Coal was still stockpiled at the site, and surface maintenance activities were ongoing. Equipment was being removed from the mine and brought to the surface. The ventilation system was in operation at the time of the inspection.

AIR RESOURCE PROTECTION – Rule 4.17:

No fugitive dust was observed on site, due to the limited activity and snow cover. The coal stockpile was smoking and burning on the eastern side.

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

The temporary refuse storage area at the top of the West Valley Coal Refuse Pile was inspected. There was no uncompacted material being stored on the pile. The area was being utilized for storage of underground mine vehicles that have been temporarily removed from service.

FISH and WILDLIFE – Rule 4.18:

The Sanborn Creek fan site topsoil stockpile was crisscrossed with deer tracks, and several areas on the pile had been cleared of snow by foraging deer.

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:

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 6

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2

Ponds A, B, and D all held water and were frozen and snow covered. The East Yard and Substation 3 ponds appeared to be dry with snow covering the pond bottoms. Ditches were frozen and snow covered; no running water was observed on site.

Straw wattles were in place on the outslope of the Sanborn Creek portal slope, where a bench had been constructed for installation of a COGCC permitted gas well for Vessels Coal Gas, Inc.

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 had been plowed up to the Elk Creek fan, as had the road to the West Valley Coal Refuse Area. The road was not plowed to the II West Refuse Area. The operator had recently installed gates on the main haul road, just beyond the cemetery, that can be closed and locked to prevent public access while the mine is idle. There were existing gates to the refuse areas and near the East Yard area; the operator indicated that these would also be locked when the mine is unattended.

SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

The Elk Creek and East Yard facilities yards had been plowed, and a considerable amount of material from underground was stored in these areas. The snow cover on site made it difficult to locate the ditches to determine whether any equipment or supplies had encroached on the ditch. Care should be taken to ensure that equipment is not placed in the collection and clear water ditches around the facilities yards.

SIGNS AND MARKERS – Rule 4.02:

Mine identification signs were observed at the entrance to the site from Highway 133. Disturbance area and topsoil stockpile markers were also observed throughout the site.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

No enforcement actions were initiated as a result of this inspection, nor are any pending.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 6

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2

PHOTOGRAPHS



Vehicles stored on top of West Valley Refuse Area



Gas well located at Sanborn Creek portals



Outslope of Sanborn Creek portal gas well bench- west



Outslope of Sanborn Creek portal gas well bench - east

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 6

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2