



STATE OF
COLORADO

Simmons - DNR, Leigh <leigh.simmons@state.co.us>

June inspection at West Elk Mine (C1980007), SL-09, SL-10

1 message

Simmons - DNR, Leigh <leigh.simmons@state.co.us>

Tue, Jul 5, 2016 at 2:56 PM

To: "Loveland, Jessica" <jloveland@archcoal.com>

Cc: "Welt, Kathy" <kwelt@archcoal.com>, "Gray, Daniel E -FS" <degray@fs.fed.us>, Morgan Rubanow <morgan@theconservationcenter.org>

The inspection report is attached.

Since there are a few items to follow up on for each bond release application, no decision has yet been proposed.

Leigh Simmons
Environmental Protection Specialist



COLORADO

Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety

Department of Natural Resources

P 303.866.3567 x 8121 | C 720.220.1180 | F 303.832.8106

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203

leigh.simmons@state.co.us | <http://mining.state.co.us/>




INSP-REPORTC_C1980007_LDS_07012016103140.pdf
7374K



PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1980-007 Mine Name: West Elk Mine Operator: Mountain Coal Company, LLC Operator Address: Ms Kathleen G Welt P.O. Box 591 Somerset, CO 81434	County: Delta, Gunnison Operation Type: Underground Permit Status: Active Ownership: Federal
Operator Representative Present: Jessican Loveland, Weston Norris	
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: June 20, 2016 Inspection Start Time: 13:00 Inspection End Date: June 22, 2016 Inspection End Time: 16:00	Inspection Type: Coal Partial Inspection Inspection Reason: Surety Release Requested Weather: Clear
Joint Inspection Agency: OSM	Joint Inspection Contacts:
Post Inspection Agency:	Post Inspection Contacts:
Inspector(s): Leigh D. Simmons James R. Stark	Inspector's Signature:  Signature Date: July 1, 2016

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 & Grading
 N - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste
 N - Explosives
 N - Fish & Wildlife
 R - Hydrologic Balance
 Y - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan
 N - Other
 N - Processing Waste

N - Roads
 R - Reclamation Success
 R - Revegetation
 N - Subsidence
 R - Slides and Other Damage
 R - Support Facilities On-site
 N - Signs and Markers
 R - Support Facilities Not On-site
 N - Special Categories Of Mining
 N - Topsoil

COMMENTS

This was a partial inspection by Leigh Simmons of the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division). The focus of the inspection was on the Mine Ventilation Borehole (mvb) pads and access roads that had been reclaimed and were the subject of two surety release applications: SL-09 (phase 3) and SL-10 (phase 1).

The inspection began with a meeting at the mine office where the following were present: Leigh Simmons and Jim Stark (Division); Tom Medlin (OSMRE); Jessica Loveland, Kathy Welt, Weston Norris and Jim Miller (Mountain Coal Company, MCC); Dan Gray (USFS); Dave Noe, Morgan Rubanow and Alyssa Clarida (Western Slope Conservation Center, WSCC). No representative of the BLM was present, although they had been notified. The permitting and bond release process was discussed in general terms, and then the plan for the inspection was discussed in greater detail.

The full list of sites inspected for the bond release applications is given in tables 1 and 2, together with comments where appropriate. In general the reclamation was very impressive. With a single exception, there were no sites that showed any sign of erosion despite some very steep grades in places. Similarly, with just a few exceptions, weeds were not a significant problem.

Notes from the inspection that are not directly related to either bond release application are given under the normal headings.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 8

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 4

Table 1: SL-10 inspection notes

Pad	Type	SL-10 Inspection	Comments
E3-17.5	m vb	6/20/2016	No survey stake yet, thistles on spur
E3-21	m vb	6/20/2016	No survey stake yet
E3-25	m vb	6/20/2016	No survey stake yet
E3-12	m vb+road	6/20/2016	Some cheat grass
E4-14	m vb	6/20/2016	
E4-13	m vb+road	6/20/2016	
E4-12	m vb+road	6/20/2016	
E3-29	m vb	6/20/2016	Plugged and abandoned, but pad untouched
E4-11	m vb+road	6/20/2016	
09LWE4X37	well	6/20/2016	Small slump to repair
E4-01 / E4-02 / E4-03	m vb	6/22/2016	
E4-04	m vb+road	6/22/2016	
E4-05 / E4-06	m vb+road	6/22/2016	
E4-07 / E4-08	m vb+road	6/22/2016	Leafy spurge
09LWE4X52	well	6/22/2016	
E4-09	m vb	6/22/2016	
E4-10	m vb	6/22/2016	

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Table 2: SL-09 inspection notes

Name	Type	SL-09 Inspection	Comments
16-01	mvb+road	6/21/2016	0.13 acre patch of Canada Thistle on pad
17-02a / b	mvb	6/21/2016	
15-02	mvb+road	6/21/2016	
15-01 / 15-01a	mvb+road	6/21/2016	Whole pad needs sprayed for thistle
15-03	mvb+road	6/21/2016	
15-03.5	mvb	6/21/2016	
16-04	mvb	6/21/2016	
16-03	mvb	6/21/2016	
16-02	mvb	6/21/2016	
17-03	mvb	6/21/2016	
15-08	mvb+road	6/21/2016	
15-09	mvb	6/21/2016	
14-09	mvb	6/21/2016	
16-05 / 16-05b	mvb	6/21/2016	
17-06	mvb	6/21/2016	
17-05	mvb+road	6/21/2016	
17-04	mvb+road	6/21/2016	
17-01a / b / c	mvb	6/22/2016	Two small patches of thistle mechanically removed during inspection
16-04 to 17-03	road	6/21/2016	
16-04 to 17-02	road	6/21/2016	
16-04 to junction	road	6/21/2016	
96-2-2 to 17-01	road	6/22/2016	First section of segment has not yet been reclaimed, (approximately 1000 feet)

REVEGETATION – Rule 4.15**Vegetative Cover; Timing:**

All of the recently reclaimed sites were protected from cattle by an electric fence, to give the vegetation chance to get established.

A section of Upper Deep Creek Road, approximately 1500 feet in length, leading to the 96-2-2 pad had a very dense growth of Canada Thistle along the side. Although this section of road has not yet been reclaimed, the density of the thistle means that this area should be treated as soon as possible.

DOCUMENTS RECEIVED

N/A

OTHER (SPECIFY)

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 8

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 4

N/A

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

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

PHOTOGRAPHS

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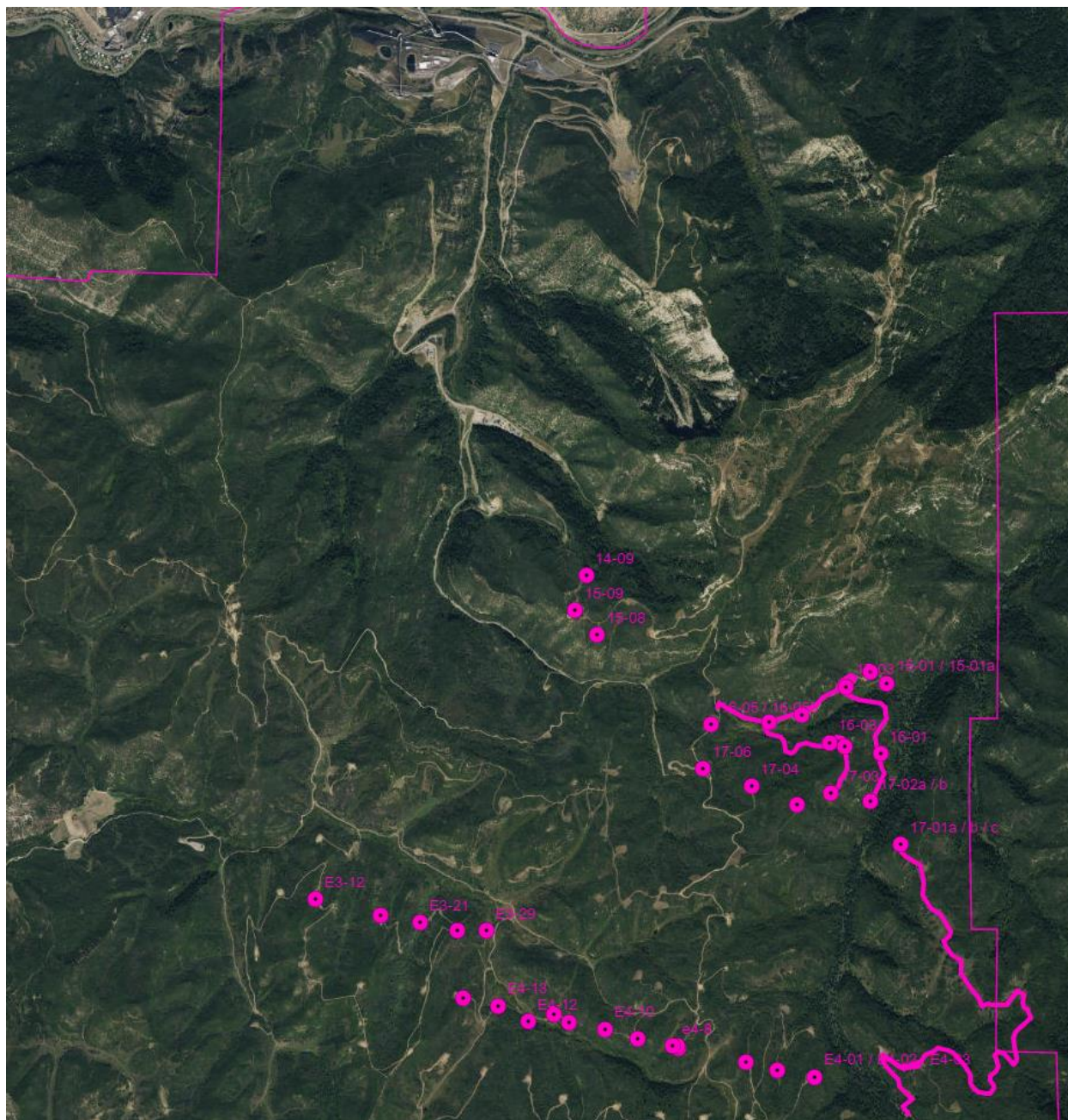


Figure 1: Overview of inspected sites

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Figure 2: Slump on E3-17.5



Figure 3: E3-29, not yet reclaimed

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Figure 4: Thistles removed on 17-01a/b/c



Figure 5: Dense thistle on 15-01/15-01a

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Figure 6: Dense patch of thistle on 16-01



Figure 7: Deep Creek Road from 96-2-2, not yet reclaimed

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Figure 8: Dense thistle along Upper Deep Creek Road, south of 96-2-2

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Figure 9: 09LWE4X52



Figure 10: E3-12

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Figure 11: E4-01



Figure 12: E4-02

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Figure 13: E4-03



Figure 14: E4-04

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Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 4



Figure 15: E4-05



Figure 16: E4-06

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Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 4



Figure 17: E4-07



Figure 18: E4-08

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Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 4



Figure 19: E4-09



Figure 20: E4-10

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Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 4



Figure 21: E4-11



Figure 22: E4-12

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 8

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 4



Figure 23: E4-13



Figure 24: E4-14

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