



PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-2010-089 Mine Name: New Horizon North Mine Operator: Elk Ridge Mining and Reclamation, LLC Operator Address: Mr. Tony Tennyson 5731 State Highway 13 Meeker, CO 81641	County: Montrose Operation Type: Surface Permit Status: Active Ownership: Private
	Operator Representative Present: Frank Ferris and Tom Fry
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) 	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: March 28, 2017 Inspection Start Time: 16:00 Inspection End Date: March 29, 2017 Inspection End Time: 11:00		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	Inspector's Signature:  Signature Date: April 4, 2017		

Inspection Topic Summary

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

N - Air Resource Protection	N - Roads
N - Availability of Records	N - Reclamation Success
R - Backfill & Grading	N - Revegetation
N - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste	N - Subsidence
N - Explosives	N - Slides and Other Damage
N - Fish & Wildlife	N - Support Facilities On-site
R - Hydrologic Balance	N - Signs and Markers
N - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan	N - Support Facilities Not On-site
N - Other	N - Special Categories Of Mining
N - Processing Waste	R - Topsoil

COMMENTS

This was a partial inspection of the New Horizon North Mine conducted by Brock Bowles of the Colorado Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety. Frank Ferris and Tom Fry of Elk Ridge Mining and Reclamation were present for the entire inspection. The weather conditions were overcast with occasional rain showers. The temperature was approximately 50F and the ground was damp.

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:

The Pond 002 North Ditch has been backfilled from the eastern edge of the permit boundary to the east side of the Pond 002 topsoil stockpile. This distance is approximately 2,200 feet. The backfill has been graded to approximate original contour that conforms to the rolling terrain. Drainage channels have been reestablished.

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:

Pond 001 contained water but was not discharging (photo 1).

Pond 002 did not contain water. The north ditch of Pond 002 has been backfilled to just east of the Pond 2 topsoil stockpile. Straw wattles were installed on the downhill side of the reclaimed ditch in drainages (photo 2) and areas where the slope appeared to be steep (photo 3). A berm with a straw wattle filter was installed at the east end of the topsoil laydown area. This berm catches any topsoil runoff from going into sediment pond 002. The disturbed area around the topsoil stockpile still reports to Pond 002.

TOPSOIL – Rule 4.06

Removal 4.06.2; Substitute Materials 4.06.4(4); Storage and Protection 4.06.3; Redistribution 4.06.4:

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 6

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 3

Topsoil has been replaced over the backfilled areas of the Pond 002 north ditch. The topsoil was replaced to a depth of 2 feet in most areas (photo 4). Areas that received shallower depths of topsoil were identified by the soil profile made visible by the disturbance of the ditch. A ledge rock layer was the most common reason the top soil was shallow in certain areas. The topsoil on the reclaimed area had been ripped. ERM is planning to rock pick the reclaimed area.

Topsoil for the Pond 002 north ditch was taken from the Pond 002 topsoil pile. The remaining part of the topsoil pile was recontoured, ripped and dimpled with dozer tracks (photo 5). The ring ditch was reestablished around the pile. The area from where the topsoil had been removed was recontoured, ripped and dimpled with dozer tracks.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

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

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1 – Pond 001 Discharge Structure



Photo 2 – Drainage Area With Wattles



Photo 3-Wattles Along Reclaimed North Ditch

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Photo 4 – Topsoil Contoured to AOC Blending in Very Well



Photo 5 – Topsoil Pile and Disturbed Area

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