



COLORADO
Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety
Department of Natural Resources

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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: Cliff Chiles
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) 	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: May 2, 2017 Inspection Start Time: 08:00 Inspection End Date: May 2, 2017 Inspection End Time: 12:00		Inspection Type: Coal Complete 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: May 12, 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
R - 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	R - 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 complete inspection of the New Horizon North Mine conducted by Brock Bowles of the Colorado Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety. Cliff Chiles of Elk Ridge Mining and Reclamation was present for the entire inspection. The weather conditions were overcast and warm. The temperature was approximately 65F and the ground was dry.

AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS – Rule 5.02.4(1):

The records were checked after the ground inspection. All required records were on file and available for review at the mine office. No problems were noted with the records review. Please see the availability of records at the end of this report.

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:

Coal was not being removed from the pit at the time of this inspection. Subsoil was being moved by the shovel and truck operation outside the pit to the southeast, establishing AOC. Topsoil was not being moved.

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. Water was not being pumped into Pond 001 from the pit. The primary spillway (photo 1), emergency spillway and discharge flume were free and clear of obstructions. The west ditch was in good condition (photo 2). The east ditch was recently cleaned to remove tumble weeds.

Pond 002 did not contain water. The primary (photo 3) and emergency spillways were free and clear of obstructions. The north ditch was in good condition.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 7

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 4

The water pump at NH1 Pond had been removed. The spill containment structure was in place (photo 4).

SIGNS AND MARKERS – Rule 4.02:

The topsoil signs were in place for the four topsoil piles.

Permit boundary signs were in place around the mining area, along the equipment corridor and along the NH1 Pond access road.

TOPSOIL – Rule 4.06

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

A berm and wattles were set up in the Pond 002 north ditch where the backfill and topsoiling stopped (photo 5). This will prevent topsoil from being lost during a rain event.

The vegetation on the replaced topsoil southwest of the mine pit was beginning to sprout (photo 6). This topsoil was live hauled from in front of the pit over the last several years and was planted with a cover crop.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

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

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1 – Pond 001 Primary Spillway



Photo 2 – Pond 001 West Ditch

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Photo 3 – Pond 002 – Primary Spillway



Photo 4 – Pond NH1 Pump Station



Photo 5 – End of Pond 002 North Ditch



Photo 6 – Replaced Topsoil SW of Pit

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AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS**PERMIT RECORDS**

DRMS Permit	X
Permit Application w/Revisions	X
Findings Document	X - 2012
Insurance Certificate	X – 8/2017
Bond Document	X – 3/2015
Phased Bond Release	NA
Documents/Findings	
Air Emission Permits	X
County Special Use Permits	X
UG Mining Landowner Notification	NA
Subsidence Monitoring Reports	NA
Subsidence Monitoring Data	NA
Rill & Gully Survey	NA
Vegetation Monitoring Data	NA
Specific Variance Approvals	NA
Annual Reclamation Reports	X - 2016
Midterm Review Documents	X – MT1
DRMS/OSM Inspection	X
Reports/Enforcement Actions (3 Years)	
Transfers/Succession of Operator	X – SO1
Temporary Cessation Notification	NA
Reclamation Cost Estimate	X – MT1
CERTIFICATIONS	
Pond Certifications	X
Annual Certifications for Impoundments	X
Fill Certifications for Excess Spoil or Underground Development Waste	NA
• Quarterly Inspections	NA
• Compaction Testing	NA
• Final Certification	NA
Coal Processing Waste Banks	NA
Haul Road Certifications	X
Access Road Certifications	NA

HYDROLOGIC RECORDS

NPDES Permit	X
NPDES Records	X
Stormwater Management Plan	X
SPCC Plan	X
MSHA Pond Inspections	NA
	NA
State Engineer's Pond Inspection	
Quarterly Pond Inspections	X – 1 ST 2017
Annual Hydrology Reports	X
• Ground Water Monitoring	X
• Surface Water Monitoring	X
• Spring & Seep Monitoring	X
• Mine Water Discharge Monitoring	X
• Mine Inflow Study	NA
• Water Consumption Records	X
Well Permits	X

BLASTING RECORDS

Blasting Publication	X – 7/2015
Blasting Records (3 years)	X
ATFE Explosives Permit	NA
Blasting Variances	NA
Pre-Blast Surveys	X

ADDITIONAL RECORDS (specify)

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