




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

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PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1981-008 Mine Name: New Horizon 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
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) 	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: June 21, 2017 Inspection Start Time: 15:00 Inspection End Date: June 22, 2017 Inspection End Time: 16:30		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: June 28, 2017		

Inspection Topic Summary

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

N - Air Resource Protection

R - Availability of Records

N - Backfill & Grading

N - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

N - Explosives

N - Fish & Wildlife

R - Hydrologic Balance

N - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Other

N - Processing Waste

N - Roads

R - Reclamation Success

R - Revegetation

N - Subsidence

N - Slides and Other Damage

N - Support Facilities On-site

R - Signs and Markers

N - Support Facilities Not On-site

N - Special Categories Of Mining

R - Topsoil

COMMENTS

This was a complete inspection of the New Horizon Mine conducted by Brock Bowles of the Colorado Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety. Frank Ferris of Elk Ridge Mining and Reclamation was present for the entire inspection. The weather conditions were mostly sunny and dry. The temperature was approximately 95F 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 checklist at the end of this report.

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 007 contained water and was discharging. The CO2 aerator was in operation (photo 1).

Pond 009 did not contain water. The discharge structure was free and clear of obstructions. The rocks that were noted blocking ditch C23 and the C118 culverts in the Oct 2016 inspection report have been repaired.

Pond 012 contained water but was not discharging. The discharge structure was free and clear of obstructions.

Pond 013 contained water and was discharging. The trench drain was also discharging (photo 2). The emergency culverts and discharge structure were free and clear of obstructions.

Ponds 15 and 16 did not contain water.

The culverts 119 thru 124 were free and clear of obstructions.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 9

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 4

The spillway structure on the NW corner of the Morgan property was in good condition. The wattles on the north and west property line were in good condition. The Enstrom irrigation water was flowing in the irrigation ditch and through the culvert to the north side of the BB Road.

RECLAMATION SUCCESS - Rule 4.15, Rule 3:

Some patches of knapweed were noted on the north embankment of Pond 9, the SE inlet of Pond 9, along the old BB Road Detour on the Benson East property and on the west side of the Pond 015 (photo 3). Knapweed is a noxious weed and needs to be treated.

A large patch of Canada thistle was noted on the western edge of the Morgan alfalfa field (photo 4). Canada thistle is a noxious weed and needs to be treated. The treatment method will have to be coordinated with the Morgans.

REVEGETATION – Rule 4.15

Vegetative Cover; Timing:

The vegetation on the irrigated pasture reference area was recently cut and baled. The ERMR staff was weighing the bales during this inspection.

The vegetation on the south side of 5th Rd was being baled into small square bales (photo 5).

The vegetation in the irrigated pastures on the north side of 5th Rd was being cut and baled (photo 6). The areas where the bales have already been removed were being irrigated.

A topsoil depression was repaired on the Morgan field. The repair is located along the BB Road (photo 7).

SIGNS AND MARKERS – Rule 4.02:

The permit boundary signs were installed around the new topsoil location on the Slash M property (photo 8).

The permit boundary signs were in place along the northern boundary between 2700 Road and Pond 12 and along both side of 5th Road and BB Road.

Permit boundary signs were in place along the western boundary north of Pond 015.

TOPSOIL – Rule 4.06

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

The Morgan topsoil pile Lift A was being moved from the ERMR-Johnson property by Pond 16 to the Morgan (Slash M) property (photos 8 & 9). The topsoil was approved to be relocated in TR79. The Lift B pile will be moved after the A lift relocation is complete.

The topsoil ring ditch was being repaired on the western side of stockpile 12 (photo 10). The ring ditch was

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damaged during the relocation of the Morgan topsoil piles.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

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

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1 – Pond 007 Discharge



Photo 2 – Pond 013 Discharge



Photo 3 – Knapweed at Pond 15



Photo 4 – Canada Thistle at Field Edge

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Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 4



Photo 5 – South of 5th Road



Photo 6 – North of 5th Road



Photo 7 – Topsoil Depression Repair



Photo 8 – Permit Boundary Signs Installed



Photo 9 – Moving Lift A



Photo 10 – Ring Ditch Repair

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AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS**PERMIT RECORDS**

DRMS Permit	X- 2018
Permit Application w/Revisions	X
Findings Document	X – RN6
Insurance Certificate	X – 8/2017
Bond Document	X
Phased Bond Release	X – SL15
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	X
Specific Variance Approvals	X
Annual Reclamation Reports	X – 2016
Midterm Review Documents	X – MT7
DRMS/OSM Inspection	X
Reports/Enforcement Actions (3 Years)	
Transfers/Succession of Operator	X – SO2
Temporary Cessation Notification	NA
Reclamation Cost Estimate	X – MT7
CERTIFICATIONS	
Pond Certifications	X
Annual Certifications for Impoundments	X - 2016
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	NA
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 – 2 ND 2017
Annual Hydrology Reports	X -2016
• Ground Water Monitoring	X
• Surface Water Monitoring	X
• Spring & Seep Monitoring	X
• Mine Water Discharge Monitoring	NA
• Mine Inflow Study	X
• Water Consumption Records	X
Well Permits	X

BLASTING RECORDS

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

ADDITIONAL RECORDS (specify)

COMMENTS:

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