




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 and Tom Fry
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) 	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: July 19, 2017 Inspection Start Time: 09:00 Inspection End Date: July 20, 2017 Inspection End Time: 16:00		Inspection Type: Coal Complete 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): Brock F. Bowles	Inspector's Signature:  Signature Date: August 2, 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	R - Reclamation Success
N - Backfill & Grading	R - 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 complete inspection of the New Horizon 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 mostly sunny and warm. The temperature was approximately 85F 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 treatment system was in place and operational.

Pond 012 contained water but was not discharging. The embankment appeared to be in good condition. Several plants of scarlet paintbrush (Castilleja miniata) (photo 1) were growing at the waterline.

Pond 013 contained water and was discharging as was the trench drain. The embankment appeared to be in good condition (photo 2).

Pond 15 did not contain water. Ditch C29 was in good condition (photo 3).

Pond 16 contained water but was not discharging (photo 4). The source of the water was irrigation tail water from the irrigated pasture on the ERMR/Lloyd and ERMR/Benson properties.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 0

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1

Pond 18 did not contain water and ditch C4A was in good condition. Vegetation was sprouting on the Pond 18 embankment.

RECLAMATION SUCCESS - Rule 4.15, Rule 3:

A few knapweed and halogeton plants were noted in the area of culvert 179. These species need to be treated as they are both a Colorado noxious species.

There was a patch of knapweed on the Moore property in the area of the former topsoil stockpile.

Ditch C9 has a patch of knapweed that needs to be treated.

Some Canada thistle and Russian olive plants were noted on the west side of Pond 007. These need to be treated.

On the east side of Pond 008, there were some Canada thistle and chicory that need to be treated.

The knapweed noted in the June 2017 inspection report at Ponds 009 and 015 has been treated.

REVEGETATION – Rule 4.15

Vegetative Cover; Timing:

The vegetation on the former NE haul road area appeared to be doing well and was consistent with the surrounding areas (photo 5). There were no signs of erosion. The irrigation system was not in operation on this area of the reclamation during the inspection. The irrigation wheel-lines were in operation on the reclaimed areas south of the haul road area.

The Moore property was being irrigated.

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 ring ditch around topsoil pile L is in good condition. The thistles noted in the May 1, 2017 inspection report have been treated. Some new Canada thistle sprouts were noted in the east side of topsoil pile L and need to be treated.

The ring ditch around topsoil stockpile 4 was in good condition.

Some irrigation water was ponding in the ring ditch of topsoil pile 12 and damaged the low point drain. The mine crew diverted the water outside the ring ditch and repaired the low point drain during the inspection.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

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

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PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1 – Wildflowers in Pond 012



Photo 2 – Pond 013



Photo 3 – Ditch C29



Photo 4 – Pond 16



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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 – 2016
SPCC Plan	X
MSHA Pond Inspections	NA
	NA
State Engineer's Pond Inspection	
Quarterly Pond Inspections	X – 3/2017
Annual Hydrology Reports	X
• 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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