



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

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203 P 303.866.3567 F 303.832.8106 <http://mining.state.co.us>

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: July 20, 2017 Inspection Start Time: 08:00 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	R - Roads
R - Availability of Records	R - 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
R - 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. 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.

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 center of the main pit continued to be backfilled. The fill is being hauled from the overburden stockpile (photo 1).

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 NHN-001 contained water but was not discharging. Overflow flow water from the water tank was being directed to the pond. The east and west ditches were in good condition with vegetation growing in the bottom. The vegetation was grasses and forbs which provided stabilization to the ditch (photo 2). No species with woody stems were noted. The primary and emergency spillways were free and clear of obstructions.

Pond NHN-002 contained water but was not discharging. The primary and emergency spillways were free and clear of obstructions (photo 3). The south ditch was in good condition.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 0

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1

GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE:

The portable water pump was not in place at Pond NH1-001. The spill containment device and supporting equipment remained in place (photo 4).

ROADS – Rule 4.03 Construction 4.03.1(3)/4.03.2(3) Drainage 4.03.1(4)/4.03.2(4) Surfacing and Maintenance 4.03.1(5) and (6)/4.03.2(5) and (6) Reclamation 4.03.1(7)/4.03.2(7):

The haul road was in good condition. The water truck and road grader were maintaining in pit roads.

RECLAMATION SUCCESS - Rule 4.15, Rule 3:

Tamarisks plants were noted on the banks of pond NHN-002 and need to be treated.

Vegetation was growing on the embankments of ponds NHN-001 and NHN-002.

SIGNS AND MARKERS – Rule 4.02:

Permit boundary signs and markers were in place along the pond NH1 road, 2600 Rd, Z Rd, 2650 Rd and AA Rd.

TOPSOIL – Rule 4.06

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

Topsoil signs were in place around the 4 topsoil piles. The ring ditches were also in place.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

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

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo 1 – Backfilling Main Pit Area



Photo 2 – West Ditch of Pond NHN-001

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Photo 3 – Pond NHN-002 Primary Spillway



Photo 4 – Spill Containment at Pond NH1-001

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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
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 – 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	X
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
Annual Hydrology Reports	X – 2016
• 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	NA*
Blasting Records (3 years)	X
ATFE Explosives Permit	NA
Blasting Variances	NA
Pre-Blast Surveys	X

ADDITIONAL RECORDS (specify)

COMMENTS: * NHN ceased blasting operations and did not publish a new blasting schedule in the local newspaper.

Should blasting operations resume, NHN will publish the blasting notice and contact all appropriate landowners before any blasting occurs.

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