




**PERMIT INFORMATION**

<b>Permit Number:</b> C-1981-008 <b>Mine Name:</b> New Horizon Mine <b>Operator:</b> Elk Ridge Mining and Reclamation, LLC <b>Operator Address:</b> Mr. Tony Tennyson 5731 State Highway 13 Meeker, CO 81641	<b>County:</b> Montrose <b>Operation Type:</b> Surface <b>Permit Status:</b> Active <b>Ownership:</b> Private
	<b>Operator Representative Present:</b>  Frank Ferris and Tony Tennyson
<b>Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)</b>  	

**INSPECTION INFORMATION**

<b>Inspection Start Date:</b> September 7, 2017 <b>Inspection Start Time:</b> 09:30 <b>Inspection End Date:</b> September 7, 2017 <b>Inspection End Time:</b> 17:00		<b>Inspection Type:</b> Coal Partial Inspection <b>Inspection Reason:</b> Surety Related <b>Weather:</b> Clear	
<b>Joint Inspection Agency:</b>  None		<b>Joint Inspection Contacts:</b>  	
<b>Post Inspection Agency:</b>  None		<b>Post Inspection Contacts:</b>  	
<b>Inspector(s):</b>  Brock F. Bowles	<b>Inspector's Signature:</b>   <b>Signature Date:</b>  September 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
N - Availability of Records	N - Reclamation Success
N - 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
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 partial inspection of the New Horizon Mine conducted by Brock Bowles of the Colorado Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety. This inspection was scheduled in accordance with Section 3.03.2(2) of the Rules, in response to ERMR's SL-20 bond release application. A coal partial inspection was conducted simultaneously with the bond release inspection. The weather conditions were mostly sunny and warm. The temperature was approximately 85F and the ground was dry.

ERMUR requested a phase II and III bond release for the permanent road that is located on the north side of the Benson property, along Tuttle Draw. The inspection began as a meeting at 9:30 a.m. on September 7, 2017 at the mine office. In attendance for the SL-20 meeting were: Frank Ferris (ERMUR) and Tony Tennyson (Tri-State). Mr. Carl Benson and OSM were contacted about the inspection but were unable to attend.

The field inspection was conducted after the meeting. Frank Ferris and Tony Tennyson attended the field inspection.

**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:

Culverts 119 through 124 were clear and free of obstructions. These culverts are in the area of SL-20.

Ponds 9, 16 and 18 did not contain water.

Pond 13 contained water and was discharging (photo 1).

**GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE:**

The area being requested for bond release in SL-20 is a section of the old BB Detour Road that was used to divert public traffic around the active mining area. The county roads have since been restored and this section

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of the BB Detour road is no longer needed for public use. This section of the road was requested to remain as a permanent structure by the land owner, Mr. Carl Benson. The request letter can be found in Section 2.05.3(3) Attachment 2.053(3)-8 of the permit. The Benson's road will be used to support the post mining land use of irrigated pasture.

The gate at the west end of the Benson's road was locked upon arrival. The asphalt for the entire length of the road was in good condition. The East end of the road ends at the Richards property and has a fence on the property line (photo 2). The area below the road was very well vegetated and appeared to be stable. The area above the road was well vegetated on the west side of the road and appeared to be stable. The very eastern portion of the area above the road was cut out to construct the road. This area consisted of unconsolidated soils and sparse vegetation (photo 3).

The area for the relocated coal stockpile proposed in TR-81 was inspected. The items discussed about the new coal stockpile will be addressed in the adequacy review for TR-81.

#### 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 12 that was repair during the last inspection was in good condition (photo 4).

### **ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE**

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

### **PHOTOGRAPHS**



Photo 1 – Pond 13



Photo 2 – East End of Benson's Road

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Photo 3 – Eastern Portion of Benson Road



Photo 4 – Topsoil Pile 12 Ring Ditch

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