




**PERMIT INFORMATION**

<b>Permit Number:</b> C-1981-012 <b>Mine Name:</b> New Elk Mine <b>Operator:</b> New Elk Coal Company, LLC <b>Operator Address:</b> Mr. Louis Head 12250 Highway 12 Weston, CO 81091	<b>County:</b> Las Animas <b>Operation Type:</b> Underground <b>Permit Status:</b> Active <b>Ownership:</b> Private
	<b>Operator Representative Present:</b>  Nick Mason, Louis Head
<b>Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)</b>  	

**INSPECTION INFORMATION**

<b>Inspection Start Date:</b> September 21, 2017 <b>Inspection Start Time:</b> 14:20 <b>Inspection End Date:</b> September 22, 2017 <b>Inspection End Time:</b> 10:00		<b>Inspection Type:</b> Coal Partial Inspection <b>Inspection Reason:</b> Normal I&E Program <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>  Robert D. Zuber, P.E.	<b>Inspector's Signature:</b>  		<b>Signature Date:</b>  9/25/2017

**Inspection Topic Summary**

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

N - Air Resource Protection

N - Availability of Records

N - Backfill &amp; Grading

R - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

NA - Explosives

N - Fish &amp; Wildlife

R - Hydrologic Balance

Y - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Other

R - Processing Waste

N - Roads

N - Reclamation Success

N - Revegetation

N - Subsidence

N - Slides and Other Damage

R - Support Facilities On-site

N - Signs and Markers

R - Support Facilities Not On-site

N - Special Categories Of Mining

N - Topsoil

**COMMENTS**

A partial inspection was conducted by Rob Zuber of DRMS on September 21 and 22, 2017. On the 21st the inspection entailed the Jansen Loadout. The 22nd inspection included ponds, waste piles, and other areas near the facilities. The inspection was short due to NECC staff schedules. On both days, the weather was mostly clear, and the ground was mostly dry. The NECC representative who participated in the inspection on the 21st was Nick Mason. The NECC representative who participated in the inspection on the 22nd was Louis Head.

**EXCESS SPOIL and DEVELOPMENT WASTE – Rule 4.09**

Placement; Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization:

Erosion on DWDA#2 does not appear to have gotten worse in 2017, and the sump below it did not need maintenance.

**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:

The two rows of silt fence below the SAE by Pond 007A appear to be functioning well.

Ponds 004A, 007A, and 08 were inspected. None of them were discharging, but all held significant quantities of water. The impounded water was very high in Pond 007A (above the primary spillway entirely) due to rains. The water in Pond 004A (level was approximately two feet below the spillway holes) was pumped there by NECC staff to lower the water in Ponds 006A and 08. No significant issues were seen with the pond spillways or embankments.

Containment Area 5 was holding turbid water that was several feet below the top of the structure. There was no sign of problems with this structure.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 2

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1

PROCESSING WASTE/COAL MINE WASTE PILES – Rule 4.10 and 4.11

Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization; Placement:

There is good vegetation cover on the reclaimed portion of the RDA, and no rills or gullies were seen on the face or in the side ditches.

SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

The hill below the water tanks was observed from afar, and no erosion or other problems were seen.

OFFSITE SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04, 4.28:

No large weed patches were seen at the Jansen Loadout, but Mullein was seen in significant numbers all around the site. At the west end of the loadout, no signs of pollutant loading onto adjacent land was seen. Coal residue is still present at both ends of the loadout.

**ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE**

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

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 2

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1

## **PHOTOGRAPHS**



**East end of loadout**



**East and north sides of DWDA#2**

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 2

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1



**RDA**



**Pond 08 embankment**

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 2

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1