



PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1981-013 Mine Name: Golden Eagle Mine Operator: New Elk Coal Company, LLC Operator Address: Mr. Louis Head 12250 Highway 12 Weston, CO 81091	County: Las Animas Operation Type: Underground Permit Status: Permanent Cessation Ownership: Private
	Operator Representative Present: Nick Mason, Louis Head
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: October 4, 2017 Inspection Start Time: 08:00 Inspection End Date: Inspection End Time:	Inspection Type: Coal Partial Inspection Inspection Reason: Surety Release Requested Weather: Clear
Joint Inspection Agency: None	Joint Inspection Contacts:
Post Inspection Agency: None	Post Inspection Contacts:
Inspector(s): Robert D. Zuber, P.E.	Inspector's Signature: <i>Robert D. Zuber</i> Signature Date: 10/6/2017

Inspection Topic Summary

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

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| NA - Air Resource Protection | N - Roads |
| N - Availability of Records | R - Reclamation Success |
| NA - Backfill & Grading | N - Revegetation |
| NA - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste | NA - Subsidence |
| NA - Explosives | N - Slides and Other Damage |
| N - Fish & Wildlife | NA - Support Facilities On-site |
| R - Hydrologic Balance | R - Signs and Markers |
| Y - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan | NA - Support Facilities Not On-site |
| N - Other | NA - Special Categories Of Mining |
| NA - Processing Waste | NA - Topsoil |

COMMENTS

This was a partial inspection by Rob Zuber and Janet Binns of the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division). The weather was clear, and the ground was mostly dry. The NECC staff that were present included Louis Head for the office discussion, and Nick Mason for the office discussion and field visit.

This was a bond release inspection for SL-07, which, if approved, will entail the final termination of DRMS jurisdiction over the mine.

During the office discussion, Rob Zuber outlined the next steps in the bond release process: adequacy review, writing of findings, DRMS’s proposed decision, public comment period, adjudicatory hearing (if necessary), and final decision. None of the participants in the meeting expressed that they expect any public objections to the bond release. Louis Head asked the DRMS participants about the bond transfer process related to this bond release since the Golden Eagle site (Northwest Airshaft) was transferred to the New Elk Mine permit with New Elk Mine revision TR-72 in July 2017. DRMS stated that they will communicate this information to Louis at a later date, after checking the TR-72 records, talking to DRMS management, and/or talking to DRMS financial personnel.

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:

No erosion was seen below the upgradient diversion ditch; it appears to be functioning well to protect the area below (former fan site), and there is no erosion in the ditch itself.

NECC staff have added wattles to the straw bales on the north side of the site. These wattles are intended to divert runoff from the adjacent land away from the NECC site. Where the wattles end (lower end of line of wattles)

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needs to be monitored closely to make sure that area does not erode. Below the BMPs, recent rains have caused erosion, and maintenance is recommended (although the rills may heal themselves over time). Branches packed in the rills would be beneficial, and NECC should seed the bare areas.

RECLAMATION SUCCESS - Rule 4.15, Rule 3:

The reclamation appears to be very good at the former pad for the airshaft, and there is decent vegetation cover on the road leading up to the pad (the southeast side of the area). The recently disturbed area (where work was done on the bottom of the upgradient diversion ditch) is recovering well.

SIGNS AND MARKERS – Rule 4.02:

The sign at the entrance has been changed to reflect the fact that the Northwest Airshaft site is now within the New Elk Mine permit.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

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

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PHOTOGRAPHS



Entrance sign with information for New Elk Mine



Former road up to pad site

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Former pad site



Wattles added to north end of site

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Erosion below the straw bales

End of line of wattles along fence line

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