




**PERMIT INFORMATION**

<b>Permit Number:</b> C-1981-013 <b>Mine Name:</b> Golden Eagle 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> Permanent Cessation <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> October 4, 2017 <b>Inspection Start Time:</b> 08:00 <b>Inspection End Date:</b> <b>Inspection End Time:</b>		<b>Inspection Type:</b> Coal Partial Inspection <b>Inspection Reason:</b> Surety Release Requested <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>  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 - Availability of Records

NA - Backfill &amp; Grading

NA - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

NA - Explosives

N - Fish &amp; Wildlife

R - Hydrologic Balance

Y - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Other

NA - Processing Waste

N - Roads

R - Reclamation Success

N - Revegetation

NA - Subsidence

N - Slides and Other Damage

NA - Support Facilities On-site

R - Signs and Markers

NA - Support Facilities Not On-site

NA - Special Categories Of Mining

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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