



PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1981-012 Mine Name: New Elk 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: Active Ownership: Private
	Operator Representative Present: None
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) 	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: October 11, 2017 Inspection Start Time: 12:31 Inspection End Date: Inspection End Time:	Inspection Type: Aerial 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): Harry B. Ranney	Inspector's Signature: <i>Robert D. ZL</i> Signature Date: 10/12/2017

Inspection Topic Summary

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

N - Air Resource Protection	R - Roads
N - Availability of Records	Y - Reclamation Success
N - Backfill & Grading	Y - Revegetation
R - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste	Y - Subsidence
NA - Explosives	Y - Slides and Other Damage
N - Fish & Wildlife	R - 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
R - Processing Waste	R - Topsoil

COMMENTS

The New Elk Mine was photographed from an airplane by Harry Ranney of DRMS on October 11, 2017. These photos were reviewed by Rob Zuber of DRMS on October 12, 2017. The weather was clear.

EXCESS SPOIL and DEVELOPMENT WASTE – Rule 4.09

Placement; Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization:

No problems were identified with the reclaimed Development Coal Waste Pile. As in the past, the overall shape of the DWDA#2 looks good, but there are many rills on the sides of this pile.

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 problems with any ditches around the site were identified. No erosion was seen in the area below the end of ditch D55 (east of the upper RDA).

The following ponds were inspected: Pond 001A, Pond 004A, Pond 006A, Pond 007A, and Pond 08. All of the ponds were holding water but did not appear to be discharging. No issues were identified with any embankments or spillways.

Containment Area #5 was holding water below the top of the structure; there was no sign of discharge toward State Highway 12. Containment Areas 3 and 4 were empty, and no problems were detected with these structures.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 4

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1

GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE:

An inspection of the banks along the Middle Fork of the Purgatoire River did not indicate that the New Elk Mine has recently caused erosion or other significant problems to this waterway.

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

Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization; Placement:

No erosion was seen on the face of the lower RDA (reclaimed portion) other than a small rill that appears to be healing well. There is possible erosion in the western side ditch. The ditch and other surface water control structures (namely sumps) between the upper RDA and lower RDA appears to be functioning well. No problems were seen with the upper (un-reclaimed) portion of the RDA.

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):

No issues with roads were identified. The berm and fill next to the road to the RDA appears stable, but hydroseeding is recommended to keep it stable and prevent significant sediment transport into the undisturbed area.

SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

No problems were seen with the soil storage area, the coal storage areas, the retaining wall above the fan, or other facilities.

TOPSOIL – Rule 4.06

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

Neither loss of material nor other issues were identified with Topsoil Stockpile #2.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

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

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PHOTOGRAPHS



RDA and eastern portion of mine
Ponds 006A, 007A, and 08 holding water

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Upper portion of RDA

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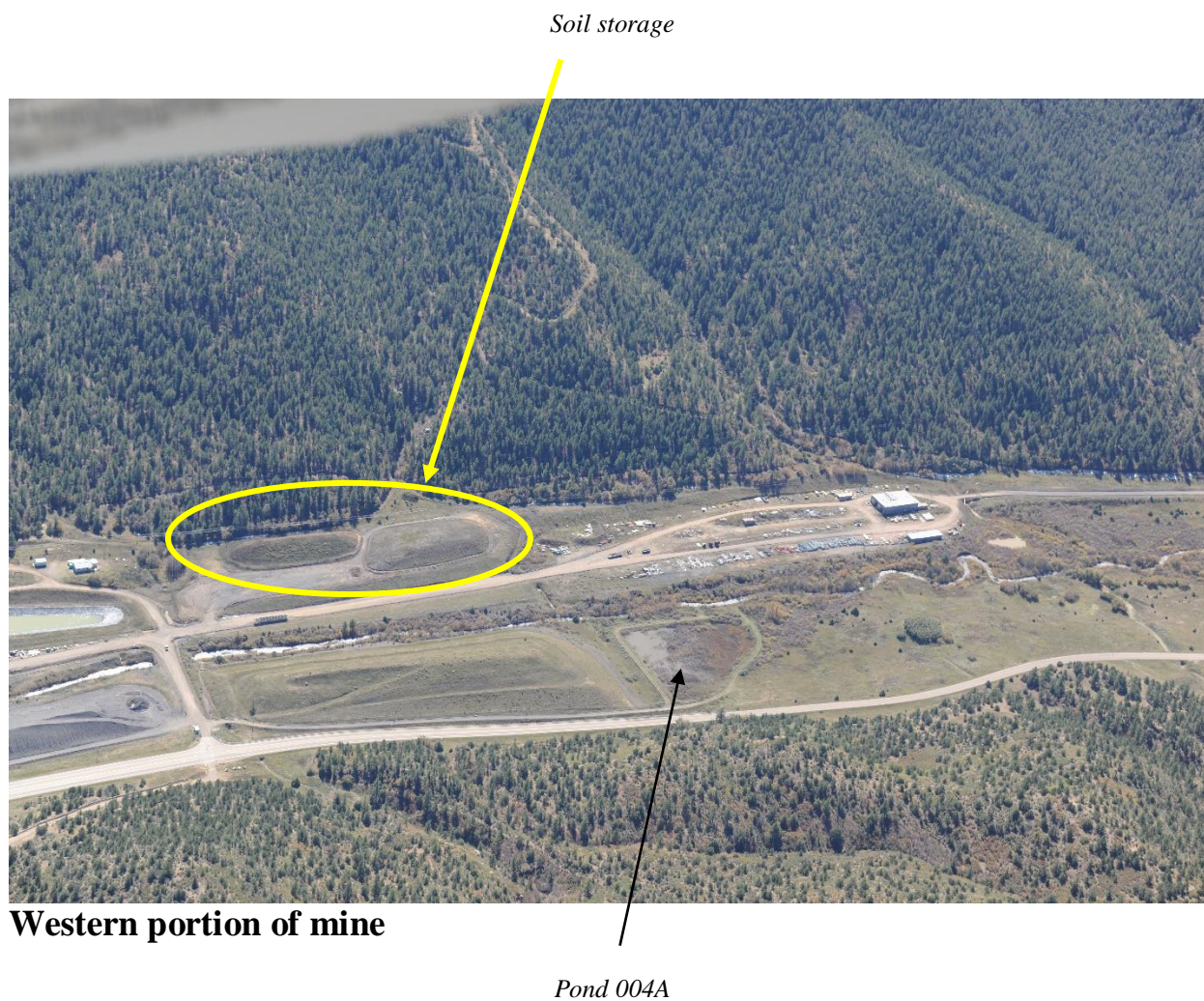


Central portion of mine

Topsoil Stockpile #2 is circled

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