



**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>  None
<b>Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)</b>  	

**INSPECTION INFORMATION**

<b>Inspection Start Date:</b> February 26, 2018 <b>Inspection Start Time:</b> 10:41 <b>Inspection End Date:</b> <b>Inspection End Time:</b>	<b>Inspection Type:</b> Aerial 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>  Harry B. Ranney	<b>Inspector's Signature:</b>  <i>Rhet D. Zh</i>  <b>Signature Date:</b>  2/27/2018

**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	N - Reclamation Success
N - Backfill & Grading	N - Revegetation
R - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste	R - Subsidence
NA - Explosives	N - 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 February 26, 2018. These photos were reviewed by Rob Zuber of DRMS on February 27, 2018. 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 (relatively small amount in Pond 004A). No issues were identified with any embankments or spillways.

Containment Area 5 was holding a significant quantity of water, but there was no sign of discharge toward State Highway 12. Containment Areas 3 and 4 were empty (or close to empty). No problems were detected with these structures.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 8

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2

**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 receiving water.

**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). The ditch and sumps between the upper RDA and lower RDA appear to be functioning well. No problems were seen with the upper (un-reclaimed) portion of the RDA, but many piles of material (likely Pond 007A cleanings, which were stored for months at the Clean Coal Storage area) need to be spread soon to prevent ponding on 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. Hydroseeding is still recommended to keep it stable and prevent significant sediment transport into the undisturbed area.

**SUBSIDENCE – Rule 4.20:**

No signs of subsidence-related damage were seen within the permit boundary.

**SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:**

No problems were seen with any of the facility areas. Particular attention was paid to the following:

- The hill below the water tanks
- The coal storage areas
- The retaining wall by the Bates Portals
- The C&W shop and adjacent equipment storage area.

The pond cleaning material has been removed from the Clean Coal Storage area.

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TOPSOIL – Rule 4.06

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

No issues were identified with Topsoil Stockpile #2 or the soil storage area piles.

### **ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE**

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

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**PHOTOGRAPHS**



**New Elk Mine – west/central portion of surface disturbance**



**New Elk Mine – east/central portion of surface disturbance**

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**New Elk Mine – east portion of surface disturbance**



**RDA and Pond 08**

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Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2





**Areas around Pond 001A, DWDA#2, and Raw Coal Storage**



**Areas around Pond 006A and Pond 007A**

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