




COLORADO
Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety
Department of Natural Resources

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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: Nick Mason
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) 	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: April 9, 2018 Inspection Start Time: 13:00 Inspection End Date: April 10, 2018 Inspection End Time: 09:00		Inspection Type: Coal Partial 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): Robert D. Zuber, P.E.	Inspector's Signature: 		Signature Date: 4/16/2018

Inspection Topic Summary

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

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

COMMENTS

A partial inspection was conducted by Rob Zuber of DRMS on April 9 and 10, 2018. The NECC representative who participated in the field inspection (April 10 only) was Nick Mason. The April 9 portion of the inspection entailed viewing the site from the highway, inspecting Pond 08 and lower portion of the RDA, and inspecting the fan site (formerly Golden Eagle). The weather was clear, and the ground was dry. Per Nick Mason, the site has seen recent snow, but not in large quantities.

EXCESS SPOIL and DEVELOPMENT WASTE – Rule 4.09

Placement; Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization:

Erosion on DWDA#2 persists. The sump below DWDA#2 did not appear to need immediate maintenance.

The vegetation cover on the Development Coal Waste Pile remains very good.

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 following ditches were inspected and no problems were identified: the east end of the clear water ditch above the RDA (D55), D10, and the ditch above the fan pad (former Golden Eagle site).

The erosion and sediment BMPs at the former Golden Eagle fan site appear to be functioning well.

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

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 9

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 3

Ponds 006A, 007A, and 08 were inspected. None of them were discharging, but all held water. No problems were identified with embankments or spillways. Other observations:

- No flow into Pond 006A was seen.
- The impounded water in Pond 007A was below seven rows of holes in the primary spillway.
- There is emergent vegetation on the top of the Pond 08 embankment.

Significant sediment has been removed from Pond 08. Use of a laser Range Finder indicated that the majority of the bottom of the pond is approximately 16 feet below the discharge point of the primary spillway. Some portions of the pond have sediment levels even lower. Based on a conversation with Vince Massarotti and the sight of a Komatsu excavator still at the pond, NECC plans to remove significantly more sediment.

Containment Areas 3 and 4 were dry. NECC has performed sufficient work (created small ditch) to direct runoff from the conveyor to these areas. The refuse material under the conveyor still needs to be removed. If the conveyor is used in the future, a device should be added to reduce the amount of material that collects under it. This would be feasible per Bill Massarotti.

Containment Area 5 was holding water that was several feet below the top of the structure. There was no sign of discharge from this structure.

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

Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization; Placement:

There is good vegetation cover on the majority of the reclaimed portion of the RDA. No problems were seen with the RDA, including the ditch and sumps between the un-reclaimed (upper) and reclaimed (lower) portions, but recently placed piles should be spread in the near future.

RECLAMATION SUCCESS - Rule 4.15, Rule 3:

No problems were seen below the SAE east of Pond 08 (such as weed patches or sediment transport). It was viewed from the highway and not closely inspected.

No problems were seen with reclamation at the former Golden Eagle fan site.

SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

No problems were seen with any facility areas.

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SIGNS AND MARKERS – Rule 4.02:

At the former Golden Eagle fan site, the sign at the entrance contained the correct information.

TOPSOIL – Rule 4.06

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

Topsoil Stockpile #2 does not have good vegetative cover, but no erosion or sediment transport problems were seen at this pile.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

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

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PHOTOGRAPHS



Pond 08



Pond 08 – evidence of cleaning operation

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Containment Area 5 and channel below Pond 08



East side of lower portion of RDA

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Road and ditches near entrance gate



Fan site (formerly Golden Eagle permit)

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Hill between fan pad and clear water ditch (formerly Golden Eagle permit)



Sediment BMPs (formerly Golden Eagle permit)

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Pond 007A

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Recently dug ditch under conveyor, near Containment Areas 3 and 4



RDA – interface between upper and lower portions

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