



NEW ELK COAL COMPANY

CO0000906_Discharge_2018_May

Outfall 010 had an unscheduled discharge on May 22, 2018. New Elk Coal Co. came back to work after a 4 day off time. It rained the 3 days before we came back and the rain gauge showed 1.7 inches of precipitation.

When doing my outfall inspections I found Outfall 010 discharging by trickling down the side of the flume. A thorough inspection showed the sump before the flume to be holding a 9 foot by 11 foot pool of water. The flume continued to discharge for two and one half hours, the same trickle. The sump showed it had settled 6 inches from a level line. Calculations showed this to be equal to 370 gallons. The drainage ditches showed no evidence of running water and the upstream sumps, rock drains, and wattles had no retained water. A small portion of bank above the flume had sluffed off and half-filled the flume with dirt and rock. The bank was dressed and the flume cleaned out. No water had run across the SAE area into the drainage. With all this gathered information I believe the precipitation in the direct immediate area caused the discharge.

No samples were taken due to the insufficient discharge. It was not possible to collect the water trickling down the side of the flume.

We will continue to monitor this area. I am actively trying to find a means to improve Outfall 010 but to date have not come up with anything that we have not already incorporated.