




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

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203 P 303.866.3567 F 303.832.8106 <http://mining.state.co.us>

**PERMIT INFORMATION**

<b>Permit Number:</b> C-1980-007 <b>Mine Name:</b> West Elk Mine <b>Operator:</b> Mountain Coal Company, LLC <b>Operator Address:</b> Ms. Kathleen G. Welt 5174 Highway 133 Somerset, CO 81434	<b>County:</b> Delta, Gunnison <b>Operation Type:</b> Underground <b>Permit Status:</b> Active <b>Ownership:</b> Federal
	<b>Operator Representative Present:</b>  Mike Peacock
<b>Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)</b>  	

**INSPECTION INFORMATION**

<b>Inspection Start Date:</b> October 11, 2018 <b>Inspection Start Time:</b> 12:00 <b>Inspection End Date:</b> October 11, 2018 <b>Inspection End Time:</b> 14:30		<b>Inspection Type:</b> Coal Partial Inspection <b>Inspection Reason:</b> Normal I&E Program <b>Weather:</b> Raining	
<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>  10/15/2018

**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

R - Reclamation Success

N - Backfill &amp; Grading

N - Revegetation

N - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

N - Subsidence

N - Explosives

N - Slides and Other Damage

N - Fish &amp; Wildlife

R - Support Facilities On-site

R - Hydrologic Balance

R - Signs and Markers

N - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Support Facilities Not On-site

N - Other

N - Special Categories Of Mining

N - Processing Waste

R - Topsoil

**COMMENTS**

This partial inspection was conducted with Mike Peacock of Mountain Coal Company. The weather was rainy, and the ground was muddy.

**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 water in the Fresh Water Pond and FW2 was several feet below the top of the liner, which is several feet below the top of the pond.

No problems were found with the SG1 Pond, although MCC should update the PAP (at next renewal, if not sooner) to indicate that this pond was constructed within the stream buffer zone for Sylvester Gulch. The emergency spillway of this pond is approximately 3.5 feet above the level of water in this pond, as estimated with a laser tool (TruPulse 360R).

The dewatering ponds in Sylvester Gulch were almost empty.

The RPE was not discharging. The water in the upper cell was approximately five feet below the spillway, even after days of rain. No problems were seen with this pond.

The NSSA Pond was empty, and no problems were seen.

At the Loadout Pond, the water was approximately one foot below the spillway. Mr. Peacock indicated that MCC staff would pump water from this pond that day. The plan was to take the water by tanker truck to the RPE Pond.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 4

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1

The water in the MB-5E Pond was approximately four feet below the emergency spillway. It was not discharging, and no problems were seen.

#### 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):

The road to the portal bench was in good shape, and the concrete road-side ditches were functioning well.

#### RECLAMATION SUCCESS - Rule 4.15, Rule 3:

Reclamation of the RPE was viewed from below; no erosion or other problems were seen. The site is well vegetated.

The RPEE was not inspected because the road was very muddy.

#### SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

No erosion or other problems were found with any of the facility areas. Besides the main facilities, sites included the dewatering pad, the Shaft 1 Bench, the Shaft 2 Bench, and the Laydown Bench.

#### SIGNS AND MARKERS – Rule 4.02:

Stream buffer markers were found along Sylvester Gulch and by the MB5-E Pond.

Affected Area Boundary signs were seen along Sylvester Gulch.

Permit Boundary markers were seen on the river bank near the MB-5E Pond.

#### 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 problems were found with topsoil stockpiles at the dewatering pad and by the NSSA Pond.

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## **ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE**

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

## **PHOTOGRAPHS**



**Fresh Water Pond**



**Stream buffer marker**

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**Hillside below road to portal, with main facilities in background**



**Coal silos and hill below facilities (from loadout)**

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**SG1 Pond along Sylvester Gulch**

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**RPE Sediment Pond**



**Lower portion of RPE**

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