




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: V. Massarotti and N. Mason
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) 	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: January 29, 2019 Inspection Start Time: 11:40 Inspection End Date: January 30, 2019 Inspection End Time: 09:45		Inspection Type: Coal Partial Inspection Inspection Reason: Normal I&E Program Weather: Cloudy	
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: 1/31/2019

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

N - Subsidence

NA - Explosives

Y - Slides and Other Damage

N - Fish & Wildlife

R - Support Facilities On-site

R - Hydrologic Balance

N - Signs and Markers

Y - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

R - 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 January 29 and 30, 2019. January 30th entailed only the Jansen Loadout. The NECC representatives who participated in the field inspection were Vince Massarotti (29th only) and Nick Mason (both days). The weather was cold and partly cloudy. The ground was mostly covered with snow.

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 need immediate maintenance.

No rills were seen on the Development Coal Waste 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:

The Middle Fork of the Purgatoire River was inspected, and no eroding banks or signs of pollutant loading from the New Elk Mine were seen. Particular areas that were inspected include the main entrance road crossing, the stretch below DWDA#2, and beside Pond 007A.

The following sampling wells were located on the ground:

- PAW-1 is east of Pond 004A.
- Another well was found near PAW-1; NECC should identify this well.
- PAW-2 is approximately 300 feet south of the main mine entrance, near culvert C7.

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- NEW-2 is near the northeast corner of the office building. It is the well with the large pump for dewatering the mine workings per Vince Massarotti.
- NEW-4 is between Highway 12 and Containment Area 3.
- PAW-8 is between the river and Containment Area 4.
- PAW-9 is approximately 150 - 200 feet southeast of the Pond 007A dam.

NECC should check that the locations of these wells are accurate on the Regional Hydrology map (Map 8 in the PAP). The upper portion of the casing for PAW-2 requires repair to prevent contamination from surface water. Otherwise, the casings of the six inspected wells were found to be in good shape.

Ponds 001A, 004A, 006A, 007A, and 08 were inspected. None of them were discharging, but all held at least a small amount of water/snow/ice. The impounded water in Pond 08 appeared to be more than 13 feet below the primary spillway. The impounded water in Pond 007A was approximately four feet below the top of the primary spillway. No water was seen flowing into the ponds from the pipe and pump systems on site. No significant issues were seen with the embankments or spillways of any ponds.

Containment Area 5 was holding significant water/snow/ice, but no signs of past discharge were detected. Containment Areas 1, 2, 3, and 4 were mostly empty. There were no signs of problems with any of the containment areas.

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

Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization; Placement:

No erosion was seen on the reclaimed portion of the RDA. The ditch between the upper and lower portions of the RDA is in good shape. On the upper portion of the RDA, NECC still needs to spread some piles of material.

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 significant problems with roads were observed. The road beside the conveyor to the RDA has been improved since the December inspection.

SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

The hill below the water tanks was observed from afar, and no erosion or other problems were seen. No problems were seen with any facilities, although snow precluded a close inspection at many areas.

The chemical storage area, west of the soil storage area, appeared to be contained well with a berm.

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OFFSITE SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04, 4.28:

No erosion or other problems were seen at the Jansen loadout.

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 seen with the soil storage area.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

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

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PHOTOGRAPHS



Middle Fork of the Purgatoire River (DWDA#2 below mountains)



Pond 007A

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Pond 006A



RDA (reclaimed portion to left)

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Road beside conveyor



RDA and Pond 08

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Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2



Chemical storage area



Pond 001A

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 5

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2



Lower portion of Jansen Loadout

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Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2