




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, N. Mason
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) 	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: April 23, 2019 Inspection Start Time: 11:45 Inspection End Date: April 24, 2019 Inspection End Time: 08:30		Inspection Type: Coal Partial Inspection Inspection Reason: Normal I&E Program Weather: Raining	
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: 4/25/2019

Inspection Topic Summary

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

N - Air Resource Protection

N - Roads

N - Availability of Records

N - Reclamation Success

N - Backfill & Grading

N - Revegetation

R - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

N - Subsidence

NA - Explosives

N - Slides and Other Damage

R - Fish & Wildlife

R - Support Facilities On-site

R - Hydrologic Balance

R - Signs and Markers

R - 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 April 23 and 24, 2019. The inspection on the 24th entailed the Jansen Loadout only. The NECC representatives who participated in the field inspection were Nick Mason and Vince Massarotti.

The weather was rainy and cool, and the ground was very muddy. To avoid damaging roads and for safety reasons, the RDA road, the road to the West Portal, and the road to the water tank were not traversed.

EXCESS SPOIL and DEVELOPMENT WASTE – Rule 4.09

Placement; Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization:

Erosion on DWDA#2 looks to be comparable to recent months. The sump below DWDA#2 did not need immediate maintenance.

No rills or other problems were seen on the Development Coal Waste Pile. The vegetation on this pile was seen from the road to the north and looked very healthy.

FISH and WILDLIFE – Rule 4.18:

Several turkeys were seen on the tracks at the loadout.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 7Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 3

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 reaches that were inspected include below Pond 004A, near the entrance road, and beside Ponds 006A and 007A.

Ponds 001A, 004A, 006A, 007A, and 08 were inspected. None of them were discharging, but all held at least a small amount of water. The impounded water in Pond 08 was more than 13 feet below the primary spillway, and the water in Pond 007A was well below the spillway. No significant issues were seen with the embankments or spillways of any ponds.

Within the SAE by Pond 007A, BMPs appear to be functioning, and there was no discharge from this outfall.

Containment Area (CA) 5 was holding water, but no signs of past discharge were detected.

GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE:

NECC staff is unclear of the origin of sub-soil for the future reclamation of the RDA. This is an important topic of conversation for the near future.

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, as viewed from the pond below.

SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

No problems were seen with any facility areas. In particular:

- The hill below the water tanks was observed, and no erosion or other problems were seen.
- The retaining wall by the Bates Portals appears stable.
- No leaks or other problems were seen at any of the equipment storage areas.

SIGNS AND MARKERS – Rule 4.02:

Entrance signs were seen at the main entrance, at the loadout, and near Pond 08. All had the necessary information.

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OFFSITE SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04, 4.28:

No problems were seen at the Jansen Loadout. The barrier at the east end was in place.

TOPSOIL – Rule 4.06

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

A Range Finder instrument was used to estimate the heights of the large soil piles west of Pond 001A. The tops of the piles are over 20 feet, and the average heights (approximately two-thirds of the way up the piles) are 14 to 15 feet.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

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

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PHOTOGRAPHS

DWDA #2

Pond 001A



Soil storage area with other facilities in back

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Improved drainage ditch (tributary to D5)



Storage yard east of C&W Train Shop



Pond 007A

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River, with Pond 007A embankment to left



Pond 004A with Development Waste Pile in back

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RDA and Pond 08



Containment Area 5, discharge channel from Pond 08, and Prep Plant

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River next to Development Waste Pile



Jansen Loadout on second day of inspection

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