


**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**

Permit Number: C-1996-084 Mine Name: Lorencito Canyon Mine Operator: New Elk Coal Company, LLC Operator Address: Mr. Louis Head 12250 Highway 12 Weston, CO 81091	County: Las Animas Operation Type: Surface Permit Status: Permanent Cessation Ownership: Private
	Operator Representative Present: N. Mason, V. Massarotti
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) 	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: April 23, 2019 Inspection Start Time: 13:00 Inspection End Date: April 24, 2019 Inspection End Time: 10:00		Inspection Type: Coal Complete 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: 4/25/2019

Inspection Topic Summary

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

NA - Air Resource Protection

Y - Availability of Records

NA - Backfill & Grading

R - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

NA - Explosives

R - Fish & Wildlife

R - Hydrologic Balance

Y - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Other

NA - Processing Waste

Y - Roads

R - Reclamation Success

Y - Revegetation

NA - Subsidence

Y - Slides and Other Damage

NA - Support Facilities On-site

Y - Signs and Markers

Y - Support Facilities Not On-site

Y - Special Categories Of Mining

Y - Topsoil

COMMENTS

A complete inspection was conducted by Rob Zuber of DRMS on April 23 and 24, 2019 (only records check on the 23rd). The weather was clear and cool.

The ground was very muddy from rain the day before. To avoid damaging roads and for safety reasons, the steeper roads were not traversed. This included all the roads to ponds.

Vince Massarotti and Nick Mason of NECC were present for the inspection.

EXCESS SPOIL and DEVELOPMENT WASTE – Rule 4.09

Placement; Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization:

Fills 7, 8, and 9 were inspected. No large rills or gullies were seen. The vegetation on all three fills looks very good.

FISH and WILDLIFE – Rule 4.18:

Approximately 300 elk were seen crossing the Pond 8 dam.

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:

Most of the ponds were inspected, but only from the hillside above. This included Ponds 6, 7, 8, 9 and 9A (Pond 5 was not inspected). Ponds 6 and 8 contained significant water. The others were nearly dry or dry. None of them were discharging. No problems were identified with embankments, spillways, or other features of the ponds.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 6

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 4

The following ditches (at least significant segments of them) were inspected: D2, D3, D9, D15, D73, and D86. No problems were found with ditches. Branches in D9 and D73 are functioning well to prevent erosion.

Culvert C3 was clear of sediment.

RECLAMATION SUCCESS - Rule 4.15, Rule 3:

No erosion or other problems were seen with BA-3 (it was viewed from across the creek).

The hill known as “the knob” looked to be generally stable, with no gullies.

The rills on the hillside above Pond 6 have not gotten worse, but should be treated. Vince indicated that he planned to put more branches there in the very near future. Also, more branches will be placed in rills on the hillside above the pond cleaning dump area. The branches in rills southwest of ditch D9 are functioning well.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

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

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PHOTOGRAPHS



Ditch D86



Top of Fill 8

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Ditch D73



Ditch D9

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Fill 7



Fill 9 and Pond 9A

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Pond 6 with BA-3 in background (circled)



Hill above Pond 6

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Ditch D3



Ditch D2, above D3 confluence

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AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS**PERMIT RECORDS**

DRMS Permit	Expires 11/7/2022
Permit Application w/Revisions	yes
Findings Document	RN4 (Jan. 2018)
Insurance Certificate	Exp. April 2019
Bond Document	\$927,121.00
Phased Bond Release	SL2,
Documents/Findings	Findings 4/29/08
Air Emission Permits	Terminated
County Special Use Permits	SUP-01-020
UG Mining Landowner Notification	n/a
Subsidence Monitoring Reports	n/a
Subsidence Monitoring Data	n/a
Rill & Gully Survey	2018 ARR
Vegetation Monitoring Data	
Specific Variance Approvals	n/a
Annual Reclamation Reports	2018
Midterm Review Documents	MT4 (findings Jan. 2016)
DRMS/OSM Inspection	Through
Reports/Enforcement Actions	March 2019
Transfers/Succession of Operator	Executed 2008
Temporary Cessation Notification	n/a
Reclamation Cost Estimate	RN4, \$877,328
CERTIFICATIONS	
Pond Certifications	Yes, Exhibit 15
Annual Certifications for Impoundments	n/a
Fill Certifications for Excess Spoil or Underground Development Waste	2003
• Quarterly Inspections	* Comment 1
• Compaction Testing	n/a
• Final Certification	n/a
Coal Processing Waste Banks	n/a
Haul Road Certifications	yes
Access Road Certifications	yes

HYDROLOGIC RECORDS

NPDES Permit	CO0048988, Expires 12/31/2020
NPDES Records	Q3 2015 (terminated monitoring)
Stormwater Management Plan	yes
SPCC Plan	n/a
MSHA Pond Inspections	n/a
State Engineer's Pond Inspection	n/a
Quarterly Pond Inspections	* Comment 1
Annual Hydrology Reports	Terminated
• Ground Water Monitoring	
• Surface Water Monitoring	
• Spring & Seep Monitoring	
• Mine Water Discharge Monitoring	
• Mine Inflow Study	
• Water Consumption Records	
Well Permits	201451, 201453- 201476

BLASTING RECORDS

Blasting Publication	n/a
Blasting Records (3 years)	n/a
ATFE Explosives Permit	n/a
Blasting Variances	n/a
Pre-Blast Surveys	n/a

**ADDITIONAL RECORDS
(specify)**

None at this time	

Comments

*1 Through Q4 2018. Staff to contact Ron Thompson for newer report.

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