




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

PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1981-008 Mine Name: New Horizon Mine Operator: Elk Ridge Mining and Reclamation, LLC Operator Address: Mr Tony Tennyson 5731 State Highway 13 Meeker, CO 81641	County: Montrose Operation Type: Surface Permit Status: Active Ownership: Private
	Operator Representative Present: NA
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) 	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: January 24, 2020 Inspection Start Time: 03:38 Inspection End Date: January 24, 2020 Inspection End Time: 03:40		Inspection Type: Aerial 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): Janet Binns Harry Ranney	Inspector's Signature:  1/28/2020		Signature Date:

Inspection Topic Summary

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

N - Air Resource Protection

N - Availability of Records

R - Backfill & Grading

N - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

N - Explosives

N - Fish & Wildlife

R - Hydrologic Balance

Y - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Other

N - Processing Waste

N - Roads

R - Reclamation Success

Y - Revegetation

N - Subsidence

N - Slides and Other Damage

R - Support Facilities On-site

N - Signs and Markers

NA - Support Facilities Not On-site

N - Special Categories Of Mining

N - Topsoil

COMMENTS

This was an aerial inspection conducted by Harry Ranney of CDRMS taking aerial digital images of the the site on January 24, 2020. The resulting report is the evaluation of the digital imagery by Janet Binns of CDRMS on January 28, 2020.

The mine is a surface mine that is predominately reclaimed, and has achieved various phases of bond release. The mine is no longer actively mining coal.

BACKFILL and GRADING – Rule 4.14

Contemporaneous Reclamation 4.14.1; Approximate Original Contour 4.14.2;; Stabilization of Rills and Gullies 4.14.6:

The majority of the permit area has been backfilled and graded. Much of the backfilled and graded parcels have received Phase I bond release. An area at the northwest portion of the mine, at the last area of mining has been backfilled and generally graded, but not yet at final contours. The operator has not completed grading this area as they resolve spoil spring management.

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; Impoundments 4.05.6, 4.05.9; Stream Buffer Zones 4.05.18:

A small puddle of water is visible in Pond 16. Pond 18 contains a thin frozen puddle, and the inslope of the embankment is snow covered. Pond 13 held a full pool of water that did not appear to be frozen. Pond 15 appear dry with a patchy covering of snow.

Ditches throughout the site appear in good shape, from what can be seen on the digital images.

RECLAMATION SUCCESS - Rule 4.15, Rule 3:

The agricultural fields are dormant this time of year and are partially covered with patchy snow. Fields that have previously been Phase III bond released and removed from the permit boundary have cattle grazing on the stubble.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 5

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2

The vegetation on the irrigated cropland parcel (Morgan property) is dormant. The thin snow cover helps highlight the drainage swale that the landowner has expressed concern about. This drainage area drains to the northwest towards the location of the reclaimed pond. The winter aerial photo may help the operator and landowner locate where to place a grassed waterway or other method of managing the irrigation runoff.

DOCUMENTS RECEIVED NA

OTHER (SPECIFY) NA

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

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

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 5

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2

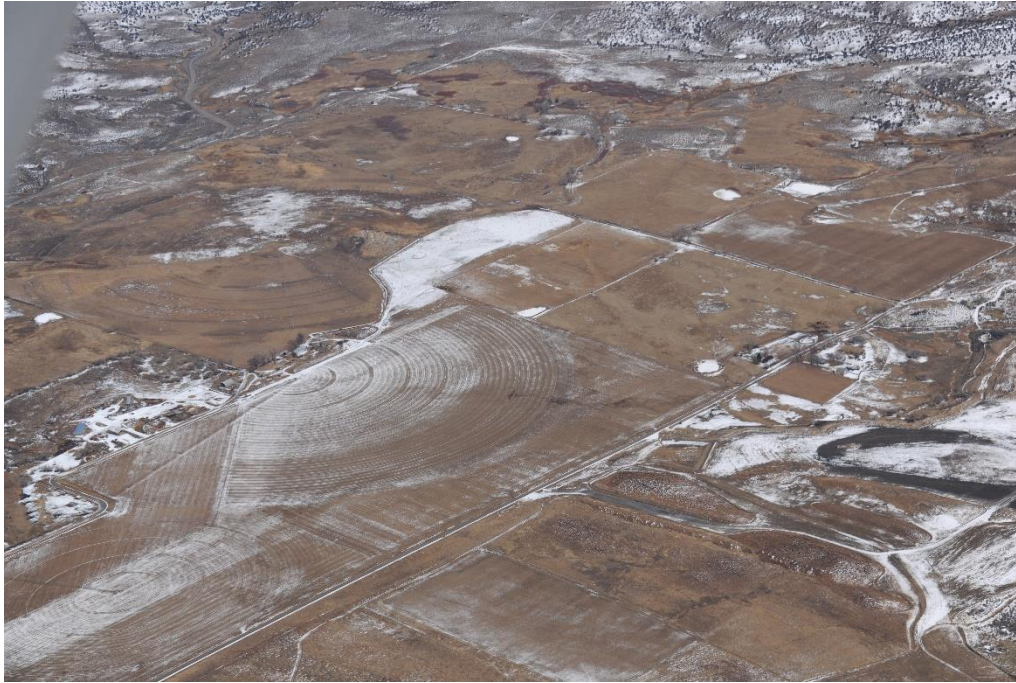
PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo 1: Irrigated cropland parcel. N is at lower right corner. Irrigation runoff path is visible as a dark feature running diagonally across the field.



Photo 2: final pit area. Pond 13 is at right of photo. Pond 15 is towards center of photo

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Photo 3: ERMR office, warehouse, facilities area, and pond 18 at center left of photo.



Photo 4: North is at bottom of photo: Parcel DP-1, IP1, IP-2, and IP3 are in foreground.

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