




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

PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1981-019 Mine Name: Colowyo Coal Mine Operator: Colowyo Coal Company L.P. Operator Address: Mr Tony Tennyson 5731 State Highway 13 Meeker, CO 81641	County: Moffat, Rio Blanco Operation Type: Surface Permit Status: Active Ownership: Private
Operator Representative Present: Tony Tennyson and Tom Fry	
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) 	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: March 10, 2020 Inspection Start Time: 07:30 Inspection End Date: March 10, 2020 Inspection End Time: 13:00		Inspection Type: Coal Complete Inspection Inspection Reason: Normal I&E Program Weather: Snowing	
Joint Inspection Agency: None		Joint Inspection Contacts: None	
Post Inspection Agency: None		Post Inspection Contacts: None	
Inspector(s): Zach Trujillo Robin Reilley, GISP	Inspector's Signature: 		Signature Date: 3/16/20

Inspection Topic Summary

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

N - Air Resource Protection	R - Roads
R - Availability of Records	R - Reclamation Success
R - Backfill & Grading	N - Revegetation
R - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste	N - Subsidence
R - Explosives	N - Slides and Other Damage
R - Fish & Wildlife	N - 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 was a complete inspection of the Colowyo Mine conducted by Zach Trujillo and Robin Reilley of Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division/DRMS) on March 10th, 2020. Tony Tennyson representing Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association (Tri-State) and Tom Fry representing Colowyo Coal Company (Colowyo) accompanied the inspection. The weather for inspection was snowing with snow covered ground conditions. Temperature during the inspection was around thirty degrees fahrenheit. In addition to a complete inspection, the Division also did a special focus on blasting records conducted by Robin Reilley.

AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS – Rule 5.02.4(1):

All records are kept on site at the Colowyo Mine's office building. Please see the Division's Availability of Records checklist at the end of this inspection report for more detailed information.

As noted earlier in this report, the Division also did a special focus on blasting records conducted by Robin Reilley. All information required by the Division was present and no issues were observed. The following observations were noted in Robin Reilley's memo (dated March 10, 2020) to Zach Trujillo:

General Requirements 4.08.1; DRMS finds records kept are comprehensive.

Public Notice of Blasting Schedule 4.08.3; DRMS finds Colowyo public notice of the 2020 blasting schedule was published in two newspapers in December 2019.

Surface Blasting Requirements 4.08.4: DRMS finds that Colowyo generally blasts at 4pm and that this is posted on site and is public knowledge.

Records of Blasting for Surface Coal Mining 4.08.5; A checklist of topics in this section of the rule is provided with this memo. DRMS finds that the nearest dwelling is located upwards of 9200 feet away from the blast site, and that seismographs are not employed. Colowyo utilizes a combination of AMFO and emulsion as the blasting

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agent. Depending on the type of blast, hole depths may reach 63 feet with a diameter of 9 and 7/8 inches. Sketches were part of the blasting file. Colowyo designs and lays out each blast with specialized blasting software as well as AutoCAD. Notes regarding blast conditions were logged and each drilled hole was separately described by the drilling crew, constituting a significant portion of the blasting file. Personnel involved in executing the blast, and licensing information is also part of the blast file.

Seismographic Measurements 4.08.6. The nearest dwelling is 9280 feet from the blasting location and seismographs are not utilized.

BACKFILL and GRADING – Rule 4.14

Contemporaneous Reclamation 4.14.1; Approximate Original Contour 4.14.2; Highwall Elimination 4.14.1(2)(f); Steep Slopes 4.14.2, 4.27; Handling of Acid and Toxic Materials 4.14.3; Stabilization of Rills and Gullies 4.14.6:

Backfilling operations during the winter months is being conducted within the South Taylor Pit. As the pit progresses to the west, spoil is being moved to the east of the active mining area by dragline and truck and shovel operations.



South Taylor Pit – east end.



South Taylor Pit – west end.

EXCESS SPOIL and DEVELOPMENT WASTE – Rule 4.09

Placement; Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization:

Spoil placement continues along the Collom Temporary Spoil Pile. Spoil is being staged by dozing operations where it is then being loaded and transported by dump truck from the active mining sections of the Collom Pit, south of the excess spoil pile.

The West Taylor Fill remains stable and no issues were observed.

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Collom Temporary Spoil Pile.



Collom Pit.

EXPLOSIVES – Rule 4.08

Distance Prohibitions 4.08.4; Warnings 4.08.4; Control of Adverse Effects 4.08.4:

Drilling operations for a future blast was occurring at the Collom Pit. No blast occurred during the Division's inspection.

FISH and WILDLIFE – Rule 4.18:

Around 30+ elk were along the Middle Pond and south of the Collom Pit.

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 Final East Pit Ditch, East Taylor Ditch and the Taylor Tributary Ditch were inspected from overlooks above. The ditches and drainages were snow covered with limited access. From the overlooks, no issues were observed.

The Work Area, Wash Bay, Gossard, Rail Loop and Temporary Facilities Ponds held water with no issue. No discharge was occurring at the time of the inspection for the mentioned ponds.

The Stoker Pond was discharging at the time of the inspection. Maintenance cleaning was conducted in the fall of 2019 however additional maintenance is scheduled for 2020 when weather permits. The pond remains functional with no issues observed. The temporary access road to the pond remains open and functional as well.

The West Taylor Pond was inspected from above along the upper slopes of the West Taylor Fill. The pond held water at the time but it could not be determined if the pond was discharging at the time of the inspection due to snow cover. The pond remains stable and functional with no issues observed.

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The Section 36, Middle, and Section 25 Ponds run in series and the disturbance from the facilities and pit area report to. Each pond held water and was discharging at the time of the inspection. The ponds were stable and functional.

The Streeter Pond and Prospect bonds both held water. The Streeter Pond was discharging and had a discharge flow of 0.2 on the flume measurement. The Prospect Pond was not discharging at the time of the inspection. Both ponds were stable and no issues were observed.



Streeter Pond.



Streeter Pond flume measurement.



Section 25 Pond.



Sidehill Pond.

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Stoker Pond.



Stoker temporary maintenance road.

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):

Roads maintenance for snow removal and mud maintenance were on going and standard for this time of the year. All roads were in well maintained and functional.

RECLAMATION SUCCESS - Rule 4.15, Rule 3:

The regrade and reclaimed slopes of the East and West Pit remain stable.



West Pit Reclamation.

SIGNS AND MARKERS – Rule 4.02:

Mine identification signs located at the main entrance to Colowyo was inspected as well as signs located along the permit boundary and State Highway 13. All information for compliance was located on the signs.

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Topsoil piles were clearly marked.

TOPSOIL – Rule 4.06

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

All topsoil piles inspected were stable and well vegetated. Each pile was marked with a sign for designation.



Topsoil Pile 21D.

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ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

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

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AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS**PERMIT RECORDS**

DRMS Permit	Exp. 11/5/22
Permit Application w/Revisions	Ok
Findings Document	RN-07
Insurance Certificate	8/1/20
Bond Document	190044301
Phased Bond Release	SL-17
Documents/Findings	
Air Emission Permits	95MF1040 & 16MF1324F
County Special Use Permits	SUP08-10 & C- 05-05
UG Mining Landowner Notification	N/A
Subsidence Monitoring Reports	N/A
Subsidence Monitoring Data	N/A
Rill & Gully Survey	June 2019
Vegetation Monitoring Data	2019 ARR
Specific Variance Approvals	Ok
Annual Reclamation Reports	2019
Midterm Review Documents	MT-07
DRMS/OSM Inspection	Thru March '19
Reports/Enforcement Actions (3 Years)	
Transfers/Succession of Operator	Ok
Temporary Cessation Notification	N/A
Reclamation Cost Estimate	RN-07
CERTIFICATIONS	
Pond Certifications	Ok
Annual Certifications for Impoundments	N/A
Fill Certifications for Excess Spoil or Underground Development Waste	Ok
• Quarterly Inspections	Thru 4 th Qrt '19
• Compaction Testing	N/A
• Final Certification	N/A
Coal Processing Waste Banks	N/A
Haul Road Certifications	Ok
Access Road Certifications	Ok

HYDROLOGIC RECORDS

NPDES Permit	COR030000 & CO 0045161
NPDES Records	Thru 4 th Qrt '19
Stormwater Management Plan	2017
SPCC Plan	March 2019
MSHA Pond Inspections	N/A
	N/A
State Engineer's Pond Inspection	
Quarterly Pond Inspections	Thru 4 th Qrt '19
Annual Hydrology Reports	2019
• Ground Water Monitoring	Ok
• Surface Water Monitoring	Ok
• Spring & Seep Monitoring	No
• Mine Water Discharge Monitoring	N/A
• Mine Inflow Study	N/A
• Water Consumption Records	Ok
Well Permits	61171F

BLASTING RECORDS

Blasting Publication	2020
Blasting Records (3 years)	Thru March '120
ATFE Explosives Permit	May '22
Blasting Variances	N/A
Pre-Blast Surveys	Ok

ADDITIONAL RECORDS (specify)

COMMENTS:

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