




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: Frank Ferris
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) 	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: February 26, 2020 Inspection Start Time: 09:50 Inspection End Date: February 26, 2020 Inspection End Time: 12:15		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): Janet Binns	Inspector's Signature:  3/3/2020 Revised 3/27/2020 -jhb		Signature Date:

Inspection Topic Summary

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

Y - Air Resource Protection

R - Availability of Records

R - Backfill & Grading

N - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

N - Explosives

R - Fish & Wildlife

R - Hydrologic Balance

Y - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

NA - Other

NA - Processing Waste

Y - Roads

Y - Reclamation Success

Y - Revegetation

NA - Subsidence

Y - Slides and Other Damage

Y - Support Facilities On-site

Y - Signs and Markers

NA - Support Facilities Not On-site

NA - Special Categories Of Mining

Y - Topsoil

COMMENTS

This was a complete inspection conducted by Janet Binns of CDRMS. Mr. Frank Ferris of ERMIR accompanied the inspection and represented the operator. **ERMIR notified the Division of a correction to the water inflow to pond 13. This value has been corrected and the inspection report reissued.**

The weather was cold, clear and dry. patchy snow remains on the ground throughout the mine area.

AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS – Rule 5.02.4(1):

Mine records are stored in the Meeting building with Hydrologic records stored in the main office. Records were checked and found to be up to date and well organized. “Availability of Records” form is attached to the end of this report.

FISH and WILDLIFE – Rule 4.18:

Three Sandhill cranes were observed flying over the mine office area, with two additional cranes in the irrigated pasture reference area.

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:

Only Pond 13 was discharging at the time of the inspection. The other ponds in the permit were either dry, or holding very shallow patches of ice, or patchy snow. Embankments of the ponds looked like they were in good condition.

A flock of geese as well as ducks were swimming in Pond 13. Inflow to Pond 13 was about **226.3** gpm (two flow meters read **86.3** gpm and 140 gpm). Iron staining at the inflow was visible on the cattails. The cattails appear fairly effective in retaining the inflow long enough to drop out the Fe, as iron staining was not obvious in the pond beyond the cattails.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 5

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 3

ERM has completed re-grading the Goforth stockpond. The operator has top soiled and seeded the appropriate area, but it is too early for vegetation to establish as yet. Some mulch exists on this newly graded stock pond, but only in specific areas. The Division will evaluate the slope stability as the vegetation becomes established.

The NW corner of the Irrigated cropland Morgan property SAE does not exhibit significant rilling, pooling of water, or gully formation. The standing stubble of last year's crop appears to be effective in managing erosion on this field.

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 Inspections this Fiscal Year: 5

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 3

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: Pond 15 ditch, clear and well vegetated



Photo 2: Inflow to pond 13 with Fe staining on cattails



Photo 3: Goforth stock pond looking SW



Photo 4: regraded Goforth stockpond looking east

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Photo 5: NW corner Irrigated cropland Morgan property
No rilling or pooling of water



Photo 6: Pond 12. Dry, well vegetated.



Photo 7: Pond 16: Dry, no rilling or other concerns



Photo 8: Pond 18, Dry

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AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS C1981-008**PERMIT RECORDS**

DRMS Permit	X – 2023
Permit Application w/Revisions	X
Findings Document	X – RN7
Insurance Certificate	X – 8/2020
Bond Document	X 190044298
Phased Bond Release	X – SL20
Documents/Findings	
Air Emission Permits	X 88MO234F
County Special Use Permits	X SU-99-0834
UG Mining Landowner Notification	NA
Subsidence Monitoring Reports	NA
Subsidence Monitoring Data	NA
Rill & Gully Survey	NA
Vegetation Monitoring Data	SL appl.
Specific Variance Approvals	NA
Annual Reclamation Reports	X – 2018 *2
Midterm Review Documents	X – MT7
DRMS/OSM Inspection	X – – thru
Reports/Enforcement Actions (3 Years)	11/2019 plus Laserfiche
Transfers/Succession of Operator	X SO-2 10/3/2016
Temporary Cessation Notification	NA
Reclamation Cost Estimate	X RN7
CERTIFICATIONS	
Pond Certifications	X
Annual Certifications for Impoundments	X – 12/2018
Fill Certifications for Excess Spoil or Underground Development Waste	NA
• Quarterly Inspections	NA
• Compaction Testing	NA
• Final Certification	NA
Coal Processing Waste Banks	NA
Haul Road Certifications	X
Access Road Certifications	NA

HYDROLOGIC RECORDS

NPDES Permit	X – exp. 3/31/2021
NPDES Records	X main office
Stormwater Management Plan	X 6/6/2016
SPCC Plan	X July 2019
MSHA Pond Inspections	NA
	NA
State Engineer's Pond Inspection	
Quarterly Pond Inspections	Thru 1 st Q 2020 *1
Annual Hydrology Reports	X -2018
• Ground Water Monitoring	X
• Surface Water Monitoring	X P13 2/17/20
• Spring & Seep Monitoring	X
• Mine Water Discharge Monitoring	X
• Mine Inflow Study	NA
• Water Consumption Records	X
Well Permits	X

BLASTING RECORDS

	NA
Blasting Publication	
Blasting Records (3 years)	X
ATFE Explosives Permit	NA
Blasting Variances	NA
Pre-Blast Surveys	X

ADDITIONAL RECORDS (specify)

COMMENTS:

*1: Quarterly pond inspection 1/15/2020,

*2 2019 ARR due 3/15/2020

3; SW-N103, N217, N218 sampled 2/19/20, SW-N3 sampled 2/20/20

1/7/20 results P13, Fe & Mn

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