




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: Tom Fry
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) 	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: July 23, 2020 Inspection Start Time: 07:00 Inspection End Date: July 23, 2020 Inspection End Time: 14:00		Inspection Type: Coal Partial Inspection Inspection Reason: Normal I&E Program Weather: Clear	
Joint Inspection Agency: None		Joint Inspection Contacts: None	
Post Inspection Agency: None		Post Inspection Contacts: None	
Inspector(s): Zach Trujillo	Inspector's Signature: 		Signature Date: 7/28/20

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

R - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

N - Explosives

R - Fish & Wildlife

R - Hydrologic Balance

N - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Other

N - Processing Waste

R - Roads

Y - Reclamation Success

Y - Revegetation

N - Subsidence

R - Slides and Other Damage

R - Support Facilities On-site

Y - Signs and Markers

N - Support Facilities Not On-site

N - Special Categories Of Mining

Y - Topsoil

COMMENTS

This was a Division partial inspection at the Colowyo Mine conducted by Zach Trujillo of Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division). Tom Fry representing Colowyo Coal Company (Colowyo) accompanied the inspection. The weather was clear and ground conditions were dry with a high temperature of 80 degrees fahrenheit.

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:

Contemporaneous backfill continues in the South Taylor Pit. Spoil is moved by dragline or truck and loader operations from the active portion of the pit on the west to the east.

Regrading has begun along the upper portion of the West Pit above the highwall where the rock crushing operations were. Additional regrade work occurred along the West Pit highwall.

EXCESS SPOIL and DEVELOPMENT WASTE – Rule 4.09

Placement; Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization:

The West Taylor Fill was inspected. No issues were observed.

The Collom Temporary Spoil Pile continues to expand. With the approval and issuance of MR-219, Colowyo has been approved to expand the total volume of the spoil pile by 5.5 million cubic yards. Spoil is being placed in lifts and expanding to the north.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 1

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 0



Collom Temporary Spoil Pile.

FISH and WILDLIFE – Rule 4.18:

Pronghorn were observed throughout the site.

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:

Prospect, North Trib. East Pit and Final East Pit Ditches were inspected and their entire length was walked. All ditches are armored with riprap and no major erosion was observed. Settlement can be observed along the lower section of the repaired Final East Pit Ditch. Stock tanks PD1, PD2, EP1 and EP2 along Prospect and Final East Pit Ditch held minimal water with no discharge. Stock tank NTEP1 along North Trib. East Pit Ditch was dry.

Section 28 and Section 29 Ditches were inspected. The ditches receive runoff from the crest of the South Taylor Pit disturbance area along the south end. The Section 28 Ditch was lined with an impermeable layer that prevented water from saturating the ditch. This layer was approved for removal and has been. Both ditches were stable and no erosion was observed.

Most of the ponds at the Colowyo Mine were inspected. This included the Section 28, Prospect, Gulch A, Streeter, Section 16, Work Area, West Pit, Stoker Siding, Section 36, Middle, Section 25, Sidehill and Section 26 Ponds.

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Most ponds held minimal water with no discharge or were dry. Section 36 pond had sediment levels up to the weep hole of the primary discharge. Section 36 Pond is the first of a series of three sediment pond and any discharge from the Section 36 pond will then flow into the Middle and Section 25 ponds before final discharge. Maintenance was being performed at the Stoker Siding Pond. The primary discharge was being replaced at the time of the inspection. Water from the Stoker pond was pumped out prior to the maintenance allowing for the embankment to be excavated and a new primary discharge to be installed. All ponds were stable and functional.



Section 36 Pond.



Stoker Pond maintenance.

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):

Road maintenance was observed throughout the site. Watering and rock lining multiple roads were observed.

SLIDES and DAMAGE - Rule 4.12:

On July 7, 2020, a wildfire occurred within the Colowyo Mine permit boundary as well as adjacent lands. The fire spread along the Highway 13 corridor from the Streeter Pond north to the Wilson Reservoir and roughly burned 1,600 acres. The wildfire was not related to mining activities associated with Colowyo.

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Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 0



Burn area from Streeter Pond.

SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

The rock crusher has been moved from above the West Pit to one of the backfilled lifts within the South Taylor Pit.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 1

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 0

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: 1

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 0