

**STATE OF
COLORADO****Zuber - DNR, Rob <rob.zuber@state.co.us>**

Report from September inspection for North Thompson Creek Mine

4 messages

Zuber - DNR, Rob <rob.zuber@state.co.us>

Fri, Sep 18, 2020 at 10:10 AM

To: minrecinc@gmail.com, Jim Stover <jestover@bresnan.net>, DNR DRMS_CoalAdmin - DNR
<dnr_drms_coal_admin@state.co.us>

Please see attached file and do not hesitate to call (720.601.2276) or email with questions and/or comments.

Rob

Rob Zuber, P.E.
Environmental Protection Specialist II
Active Mines Regulatory Program**COLORADO**
Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety
Department of Natural ResourcesP 303.866.3567, extension 8113 | F 303.832.8106
1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203
rob.zuber@state.co.us | <http://mining.state.co.us>**INSP-REPORTC_C1981025_RDZ_09182020090327.pdf**
535K**Zuber - DNR, Rob <rob.zuber@state.co.us>**

Fri, Sep 18, 2020 at 11:02 AM

To: minrecinc@gmail.com, Jim Stover <jestover@bresnan.net>, DNR DRMS_CoalAdmin - DNR
<dnr_drms_coal_admin@state.co.us>

Here is an updated report. I added OSM under the joint inspection field. Sorry for confusion.

Rob

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Jim Stover <jestover@bresnan.net>

Fri, Sep 18, 2020 at 12:00 PM

Reply-To: jestover@bresnan.net

To: "Zuber - DNR, Rob" <rob.zuber@state.co.us>

Nothing attached.

Jim

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Virus-free. www.avg.com

Zuber - DNR, Rob <rob.zuber@state.co.us>

Fri, Sep 18, 2020 at 12:20 PM

To: minrecinc@gmail.com, Jim Stover <jestover@bresnan.net>, DNR DRMS_CoalAdmin - DNR
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This time with the file attached.

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Environmental Protection Specialist II
Active Mines Regulatory Program



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INSP-REPORTC_C1981025_RDZ_09182020090327.pdf
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PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1981-025 Mine Name: North Thompson Creek Mine Operator: MINREC, Inc. Operator Address: Mr. Stan Muhr 627 241/2 Road, Unit H Grand Junction, CO 81505	County: Garfield Operation Type: Underground Permit Status: Inactive Ownership: Private
	Operator Representative Present: None
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: September 15, 2020 Inspection Start Time: 10:30 Inspection End Date: September 17, 2020 Inspection End Time: 13:15		Inspection Type: Coal Complete Inspection Inspection Reason: OSM Oversight Inspection Weather: Clear	
Joint Inspection Agency: OSM		Joint Inspection Contacts:	
Post Inspection Agency: OSM		Post Inspection Contacts:	
Inspector(s): Robert Zuber, P.E.	Inspector's Signature: 		Signature Date: 9/17/2020

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

NA - Backfill & Grading

NA - 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

Y - Reclamation Success

Y - Revegetation

Y - Subsidence

Y - Slides and Other Damage

NA - Support Facilities On-site

R - Signs and Markers

NA - Support Facilities Not On-site

NA - Special Categories Of Mining

NA - Topsoil

COMMENTS

A complete inspection was conducted by Rob Zuber of DRMS on September 15, 2020. This was an oversight inspection with Dan MacKinnon of OSMRE. The weather was hot, and the ground was dry. No MINREC, Inc. representative was present. A follow-up visit to the site was made by Rob Zuber on September 17th to look at the repaired ditch (see HYDROLOGY section of this report).

No cattle were seen onsite, but cow feces were seen in many places.

The landowner's pump system at Pond T-2 was not operating at the time of the inspection.

AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS – Rule 5.02.4(1):

During a check at the Garfield County building in Glenwood Springs, several reports for the North Thompson Creek Mine were not found (for example, the 2019 ARR and the 2020 reports for pond inspections). A list of records is provided in this report.

FISH and WILDLIFE – Rule 4.18:

Eight ducks were seen in the Long Pond.

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 pipeline across the creek (attached to a bridge) that carries mine water to the treatment system was intact.

However, one of the cable supports for the pipe has come undone, and this should be fixed to keep the pipe stable.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 0

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1

The following ponds were inspected: the Long Pond, Treatment Pond T-1, Treatment Pond T-2, the Polishing Pond (Pond P-9), and the Refuse Pond. All but the Refuse Pond were discharging. At the upper end of the treatment system, orange precipitate was visible, indicating iron in the water. The water discharging from Pond 9 was relatively clear, with no mineral staining or odor. The flow through the ponds appeared to be approximately the same at the upper end (pipe from mine above the Long Pond) and out of Pond 9. The flow also appeared to be similar to the flow during previous inspections. No problems were identified with the ponds, although the amount of biomass in some of the ponds is significant, and this material may need to be removed in the next couple years to assure proper functioning of the pond treatment system.

No problems were identified with most channels between the ponds or the aeration ditch above the Long Pond. (An exception is described below.) At the outlet to Pond P-9, the diversion of discharge to the Refuse Pond (performed as a result of a violation in 2014) is functioning well, and there was no discharge to the creek (Outfall 01). The old channel out of Pond T-2 (with a pipe spillway) was dry; discharge from Pond T-2 flows directly to Pond P-9.

The ditch into the Refuse Pond (from Pond 9) was not functioning. Water was flowing over a breach in the berm and into the wooded area adjacent to the mine site. This was approximately 100 feet west of the Refuse Pond. The source of the problem appeared to be a buildup of sediment and vegetation in the channel. The water was infiltrating before reaching North Thompson Creek. Rob Zuber notified Jim Stover of this problem after the inspection on September 15. Rob returned to the site on September 17, and the problem was fixed. Sediment and vegetation had been removed from the ditch, the berm had been built-up, and water was flowing to the Refuse Pond. However, this channel has other reaches where this same issue could happen in the future. **It is recommended that this ditch be cleared of sediment and/or vegetation to prevent more breaches.**

SIGNS AND MARKERS – Rule 4.02:

Stream buffer signs were seen between the ponds and North Thompson Creek. Entrance signs were in place.

DOCUMENTS RECEIVED - none

OTHER (SPECIFY) – none

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: 0

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1

PHOTOGRAPHS

ALL PHOTOS TAKEN ON 9/15/2020 EXCEPT LAST TWO AT END OF PHOTOS SECTION



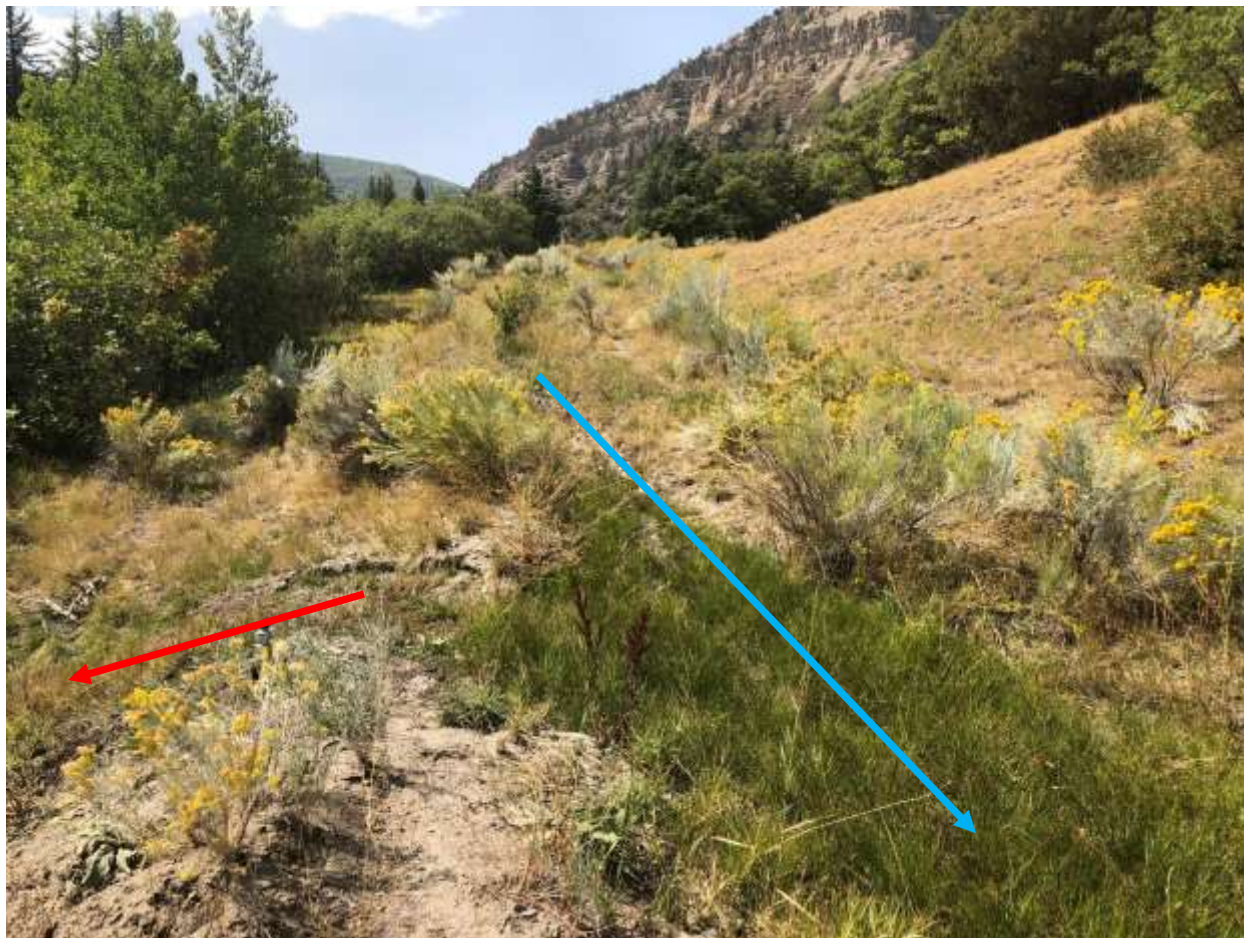
Pipe on bridge across creek (circle around disconnected support)



Pond T-2, with significant biomass

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 0

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1



Breach of ditch near Refuse Pond, looking west

Note buildup of vegetation

Blue arrow is proper direction of flow to Refuse Pond

Red arrow is direction of flow when berm was breached



Nearly empty Refuse Pond before breach was fixed

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 0

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1



Repaired breach in berm (9/17/2020)



Refuse Pond approximately one day after repair (9/17/2020)

Somewhat more water than in photo above

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 0

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1

AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS**PERMIT RECORDS**

DRMS Permit	Expires August 2023
Permit Application w/Revisions	yes
Findings Document	RN7, 9/17/2018
Insurance Certificate	Exp. 9/1/2020
Bond Document	\$10,000
Phased Bond Release Documents/Findings	SL6 (2009)
Air Emission Permits	NA, terminated 1990
County Special Use Permits	86-12
UG Mining Landowner Notification	NA
Subsidence Monitoring Reports	NA
Subsidence Monitoring Data	NA
Rill & Gully Survey	4/28/2019
Vegetation Monitoring Data	NA
Specific Variance Approvals	NA
Annual Reclamation Reports	2018
Midterm Review Documents	MT7, 12/31/2015
DRMS/OSM Inspection Reports/Enforcement Actions (3 Years)	Through November 2019
Transfers/Succession of Operator	NA
Temporary Cessation Notification	NA
Reclamation Cost Estimate	NA
CERTIFICATIONS	SEE COMMENT
Pond Certifications	
Annual Certifications for Large Impoundments	NA
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	NA
Access Road Certifications	NA

HYDROLOGIC RECORDS

NPDES Permit	CO-0048233 (Admin. Extension)
NPDES Records	Through January 2020
Stormwater Management Plan	NA
SPCC Plan	NA
MSHA Pond Inspections	NA
State Engineer's Pond Inspection	NA
Quarterly Pond Inspections	4Q 2019
Annual Hydrology Reports	2019
• Ground Water Monitoring	no
• Surface Water Monitoring	No discharge
• Spring & Seep Monitoring	no
• Mine Water Discharge Monitoring	NA
• Mine Inflow Study	NA
• Water Consumption Records	NA
Well Permits	NA

BLASTING RECORDS

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

ADDITIONAL RECORDS (specify)

COMMENTS:

Certified inspection reports from November 2019. Also, construction certifications are available in the records. These were stamped by Professional Engineers in the 1980s and 1990s.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 0

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1