



STATE OF
COLORADO

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

Inspection report for North Thompson Creek Mine

1 message

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

Fri, Nov 20, 2020 at 11:07 AM

To: Jim Stover <jestover@bresnan.net>, minrecinc@gmail.com

Hello -

I inspected the North Thompson site on Wednesday. Please see attached report and contact me with comments and/or questions.

Regards,
Rob

Rob Zuber, P.E.
Environmental Protection Specialist II
Active Mines Regulatory Program



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

P 303.866.3567, extension 8113 | Cell 720.601.2276
1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203
rob.zuber@state.co.us | <http://mining.state.co.us>



INSP-REPORTC_C1981025_RDZ_11202020103808.pdf
546K




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

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: November 18, 2020 Inspection Start Time: 10:30 Inspection End Date: November 18, 2020 Inspection End Time: 12:45		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): Robert Zuber, P.E.	Inspector's Signature: 		Signature Date: 11/20/2020

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

NA - Reclamation Success

NA - Revegetation

NA - 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 November 18, 2020. The weather was windy and hot for November. The ground was covered with snow in shady areas. No MINREC, Inc. representative was present.

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):

A check at the Garfield County building in Glenwood Springs revealed that most records for the North Thompson Creek Mine were available. **However, the current insurance document was not found by the DRMS inspector; this should be updated by the end of 2020.** A list of records is provided in this report.

FISH and WILDLIFE – Rule 4.18:

Two 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. The cable supports for the pipe have been fixed to keep the pipe stable.

The structures at the west end of the site (south of the creek) were covered with snow.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 0

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2

All of the on-site 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. The flow through the ponds appeared to be somewhat less than the flow at the upper end (pipe from mine above the Long Pond). This could be due to the fact that water has been detained by freezing (ice was seen on surfaces of all of the ponds). The water discharging from Pond 9 was relatively clear, with no mineral staining or odor. No problems were identified with the ponds.

No problems were identified with ditches between the ponds or the aeration ditch above the Long Pond. At the outlet to Pond P-9, the diversion of discharge to the Refuse Pond is functioning well, and there was no discharge to the creek (Outfall 01). The old ditch 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 (which was breeched in September) was functioning. Along its entire length from Pond P-9, it has been cleared of sediment and vegetation to insure that this ditch continues to function.

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: 2

PHOTOGRAPHS



Flow into aeration ditch at top of treatment system



Treatment Pond T-1, with Treatment Pond T-2 in the background

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 0

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2



Flow out of the Polishing Pond (Pond P-9)



Ditch between Pond P-9 and the Refuse Pond

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 0

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2



Refuse Pond

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 0

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2

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	May 2020
Vegetation Monitoring Data	NA
Specific Variance Approvals	NA
Annual Reclamation Reports	2019
Midterm Review Documents	MT7, 12/31/2015
DRMS/OSM Inspection Reports/Enforcement Actions (3 Years)	Through September 2020
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 October 2020
Stormwater Management Plan	NA
SPCC Plan	NA
MSHA Pond Inspections	NA
State Engineer's Pond Inspection	NA
Quarterly Pond Inspections	3Q 2020
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: 2