



STATE OF
COLORADO

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

Bowie #2 inspection report

1 message

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Mon, May 10, 2021 at 12:30 PM

To: Basil Bear <basilbear@wolverinefuels.com>, Tamme Bishop <tamme.jestover@bresnan.net>

Basil -

Here is the report from my inspection last week.

Thanks again for your time and for showing us the work at Gob Pile #3.

Rob

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



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

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PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1996-083 Mine Name: Bowie No. 2 Mine Operator: Bowie Resources, LLC Operator Address: Mr. Basil Bear P.O. Box 1488 Paonia, CO 81428	County: Delta Operation Type: Underground Permit Status: Active Ownership: Private
	Operator Representative Present: Basil Bear
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: May 6, 2021 Inspection Start Time: 09:30 Inspection End Date: May 6, 2021 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:	
Post Inspection Agency: None		Post Inspection Contacts:	
Inspector(s): Robert Zuber, P.E. Michael Cunningham	Inspector's Signature: 		Signature Date: 5/10/2021

Inspection Topic Summary

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

R - Air Resource Protection**N** - 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**R** - Processing Waste**R** - Roads**R** - Reclamation Success**R** - Revegetation**Y** - Subsidence**R** - Slides and Other Damage**R** - Support Facilities On-site**R** - Signs and Markers**Y** - Support Facilities Not On-site**N** - Special Categories Of Mining**R** - Topsoil**COMMENTS**

A partial inspection was conducted by Rob Zuber of DRMS on May 6, 2021. Basil Bear of Bowie Resources, LLC (BRL) accompanied Rob to Gob Pile #3, but did not participate in the rest of the field inspection. Michael Cunningham of the Division was also at the Gob Pile #3 portion of the inspection.

BRL continues to focus their efforts on Gob Pile #3. Construction of the new underdrain has been completed, as well as a temporary diversion channel next to the underdrain. During the inspection, a sheepsfoot roller compactor was being used on the west side of the pile.

The weather was clear and warm. The ground was slightly muddy.

AIR RESOURCE PROTECTION – Rule 4.17:

No issues with fugitive dust from roads or Gob Pile #3 were observed.

FISH and WILDLIFE – Rule 4.18:

Many deer were seen around the lower portions of the mine site. Birds were seen and heard all over the site. A marmot was seen near the B Portal.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 6

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 3

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:

A large amount of water was flowing in the Fire Mountain Canal. Significant flow was discharging from the Gob Pile #3 underdrains.

No problems were seen with ditches. Some specific comments:

- The ditches that convey flow from Ponds C and D to the culvert across the Fire Mountain Canal have been cleared of vegetation.
- The diversion ditches above Gob Pile #2 were observed from below, and no “blowouts” were observed.
- Ditch D-F4, east of Gob Pile #2, is in very good shape.
- The large ditch below Gob Pile #3 (D-J3) was functioning well.

Six sediment ponds were inspected: B, C, D, F, J, and K. None of the ponds were discharging, and all but Pond J were dry. Pond J held water, but it was well below the spillways. No significant problems were identified with embankments, spillways, inlet channels, or other features of the ponds.

PROCESSING WASTE/COAL MINE WASTE PILES – Rule 4.10 and 4.11

Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization; Placement:

Gob Piles #1 and #4 were viewed from below and from the road to the portals. Gob Pile #4 was also viewed from Gob Pile #2. They both looked stable and well vegetated.

All lifts of Gob Pile #2 appeared stable. Only small rills were observed. The drainage control practices on the upper (un-reclaimed) portion of this pile appear to be functioning well, and no puddles or other problems were observed.

No issues were identified with Gob Pile #3.

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):

No problems were seen with the road to the portals or the hillsides above and below this road. The ditches beside this road appeared to be in good condition. The roads to Gob Pile #2 and Pond F were in good condition.

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RECLAMATION SUCCESS - Rule 4.15, Rule 3:

The grass and other ground vegetation is sparse at the reclaimed pad for the former Hubbard Creek Vent Shaft. Feces in this area suggest that the area has been grazed by sheep.

No problems were seen at the Rock Laydown area near Hubbard Creek.

REVEGETATION – Rule 4.15

Vegetative Cover; Timing:

Weeds were observed in many places, including:

- The coverfill pile east of Gob Pile #3 (white top and others)
- Topsoil Stockpile D near Gob Pile #1 (cheat grass and bindweed)
- Along Ditch D-F4, east of Gob Pile #2 (thistle, cheat grass, and bindweed)
- West side of Gob Pile #2 (thistle)
- Area behind the Preparation Plant (thistle)
- The south side of Topsoil Stockpile A (great deal of white top) and rest of pile (thistle, mullein, cheat grass).

SLIDES and DAMAGE - Rule 4.12:

Slumps have not moved significantly in the recent past. These include slumps by the B Portal and by Curve Number 11 along the road to the portals. (This was confirmed by looking at photographs from 2019.)

SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

No problems were identified at the facility areas. All benches appeared stable with no signs of erosion beneath them. These include the pads for the B Portal and the D Portal. Other comments on facilities:

- The SAE near Pond D is stable.
- Below the Pump House and Filter Building, straw bales have been added for sediment control.
- The slopes near the Preparation Plant and nearby water tank are vegetated and stable.
- The SAEs adjacent to and below the Engineering Office are well vegetated and no erosion was seen.
- A large amount of equipment needs to be removed from the area below the office.
- The slopes above and below the Coal Stockpile Pad are stable.
- The material storage area beside Topsoil Stockpile A is very stable.
- No erosion or other problems were seen along the conveyor corridors.
- The slope above the Utility Bench is stable.
- No erosion or other problems were identified with the eastern portion of the Unit Train Loadout near Pond K.

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SIGNS AND MARKERS – Rule 4.02:

No issues with signs and markers were noted. Disturbance markers, topsoil stockpile markers, and entrance signs were seen in many locations.

TOPSOIL – Rule 4.06

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

Topsoil stockpiles and coverfill piles were in good condition (other than weeds discussed in the Revegetation section). Some particular comments:

- Berms, vegetation, and silt fence are keeping these resources in place.
- New erosion bales have been installed near the topsoil stockpiles by Gob Piles #1 and #4 (Topsoil Stockpiles D and E on Map 15-3 of the PAP).

DOCUMENTS RECEIVED - none

OTHER (SPECIFY) - none

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

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

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PHOTOGRAPHS



Basil Bear (on right) and Michael Cunningham discuss the newly constructed underdrain at Gob Pile #3



Gob Pile #3

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Topsoil pile east of Gob Pile #3



Gob Piles 1, 2, and 4 (from coverfill pile beside Gob Pile #3)

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New and improved BMPs at Topsoil Stockpile D (near Gob Pile #1)



Roads to Gob Pile #2 and to Pond F

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Gob Pile #2 – partially reclaimed lift



Gob Pile #2 – upper (un-reclaimed) portion

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White top on Topsoil Stockpile A



Conveyor corridor (near Curve 7)

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Slump above B Portal bench



Slump above B Portal bench

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Pond F



Sparse vegetation at reclaimed vent shaft area (Hubbard Creek)

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