



STATE OF
COLORADO

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

Bowie #1 inspection report

1 message

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

Tue, May 11, 2021 at 2:56 PM

To: Basil Bear <basilbear@wolverinefuels.com>

Cc: Tamme Bishop <tamme.jestover@bresnan.net>, Daniel MacKinnon <dmackinnon@osmre.gov>, Michael Cunningham - DNR <michaela.cunningham@state.co.us>

Basil -

Here is my report that includes the SL-07 inspection. Please let me know when your staff has sprayed the thistle at the ROM area.

Thank you,
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://drms.colorado.gov>



INSP-REPORTC_C1981038_RDZ_05112021013450.pdf
1391K




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

PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1981-038 Mine Name: Bowie No. 1 Mine Operator: Bowie Resources, LLC Operator Address: Mr. Basil R 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: 07:45 Inspection End Date: May 6, 2021 Inspection End Time: 14:45		Inspection Type: Coal Partial Inspection Inspection Reason: Surety Release Requested Weather: Clear	
Joint Inspection Agency: OSM		Joint Inspection Contacts:	
Post Inspection Agency: None		Post Inspection Contacts:	
Inspector(s): Robert Zuber, P.E. Michael Cunningham	Inspector's Signature: 		Signature Date: 5/11/2021

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

N - Backfill & Grading

N - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

NA - Explosives

N - Fish & Wildlife

R - Hydrologic Balance

Y - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Other

N - Processing Waste

N - Roads

R - Reclamation Success

R - Revegetation

N - Subsidence

Y - Slides and Other Damage

NA - Support Facilities On-site

N - Signs and Markers

R - Support Facilities Not On-site

N - Special Categories Of Mining

R - Topsoil

COMMENTS

On May 6, 2021, a partial inspection of the Bowie No. 1 Mine (permit C-1981-038) was conducted. This mine is operated by Bowie Resources Limited (BRL). The primary focus of the inspection was to assess reclamation success related to bond release application SL-07, per Rule 3.03.2(2) in Division regulations. This application requests full release of the ROM area. It should be noted that the ROM area includes what is sometimes called the Timber Storage area in permit documentation.

The SL-07 application includes a Phase II and Phase III bond release of the reclaimed pond within the ROM Area (0.51 acres). It also includes final (Phase III) bond release on the entire ROM Area (10.72 acres), including the reclaimed pond and the entrance road. For the majority of the ROM (all but the pond), Phase II release was approved with a previous bond release application (SL-05).

Inspection participants included:

- Basil Bear, BRL
- Sarah and Kirk Morgan, landowners
- Dan MacKinnon, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM)
- Rob Zuber and Michael Cunningham of the Division.

Desty Dyer of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management was invited, but he did not participate in the inspection.

The skies were clear, and it was seasonably warm. The ground was mostly dry.

In addition to the ROM area, inspected for SL-07, the loadout was also inspected.

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:

There are no signs that pollution of surface waters is occurring due to mining and reclamation activities at the ROM area.

The silt fence below the pond has been removed, and a small berm remains.

RECLAMATION SUCCESS - Rule 4.15, Rule 3:

No erosion was seen at the ROM area.

It appeared that no additional reclamation tasks are required at the ROM area, with one exception: the entrance road has not been reclaimed, and the Permit Application Package (PAP) for the mine does not indicate that this road has been designated as permanent. The Morgans (landowners) said during the inspection that they are completely satisfied with the reclamation of the ROM area (including the reclaimed pond), and they also said that they want the entrance road to remain. **Therefore, the road should be removed from the application by a request from BRL.**

The approximate area of the road is 0.25 acre (per a Division check using Google Earth), but this value shall be confirmed or adjusted by a BRL representative.

REVEGETATION – Rule 4.15

Vegetative Cover; Timing:

For the purposes of evaluating vegetation at the ROM area, two areas were considered:

- The main part of the ROM area, reclaimed in 2008
- The pond area, reclaimed in 2017.

In the main part of the ROM area, the vegetation is excellent. There is significant cover, and there is a good diversity of species. The predominant species listed in the vegetation report of the bond release application includes:

- Wheatgrasses
- Desert alysium
- Cicer milkvetch
- Alfalfa.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 6

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 3

All of these species were seen on the ground, and other desirable species were seen as well, including woods' rose and bitterbrush. Grasses were not differentiated, as identification of specific species is difficult in early May.

In the reclaimed pond area, the cover was not as thick as the main area, but it appears to be progressing well. The same species listed above were seen, and other desirable species were identified, including sage and rabbitbrush.

Several non-native thistle plants were seen around the ROM area. Basil Bear committed to having his staff spray these weeds in the near future (no later than the end of May 2021).

OFFSITE SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04, 4.28:

No problems were seen with the Coal Storage Area by Black Bridge Road.

The slope below the loadout is stable. The irrigation water in the Farmers Ditch appeared to be flowing without obstruction through the long culvert at the loadout.

TOPSOIL – Rule 4.06

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

Phase II bond release applications are required to show that topsoil in the area of interest is sufficient (Rule 3.03.1(5)). Two holes were dug in the reclaimed pond area, and the topsoil was greater than six inches in both holes. This is in compliance with the general requirements of the PAP; there is no particular requirement for the ROM.

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: 6

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 3

PHOTOGRAPHS



Entrance road



The “arm” of the ROM area that extends down to the creek (Stevens Gulch)

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 6

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 3



Northwest portion of ROM area



Southeast portion of ROM area

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 6

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 3



Bittersbrush, grasses, and other species near southern end of main portion of ROM area (not pond area)



Reclaimed pond area

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 6

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 3