



STATE OF  
COLORADO

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

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## Inspection report for Keenesburg Mine

1 message

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

Fri, Jun 11, 2021 at 9:29 AM

To: "Moline, Ben" <ben.moline@molsoncoors.com>

Hello, Ben

Attached is the report from my inspection earlier this week. There are a couple items to discuss; perhaps we can talk next week.

Have a good weekend.

Rob

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



**COLORADO**  
Division of Reclamation,  
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Department of Natural Resources

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**INSP-REPORTC\_C1981028\_RDZ\_06112021085656.pdf**  
1077K



**PERMIT INFORMATION**

<b>Permit Number:</b> C-1981-028 <b>Mine Name:</b> Keenesburg Strip Mine <b>Operator:</b> Coors Energy Company <b>Operator Address:</b> Mr. Ben Moline PO Box 4030 Golden, CO 80402	<b>County:</b> Weld <b>Operation Type:</b> Surface <b>Permit Status:</b> Permanent Cessation <b>Ownership:</b> Private
	<b>Operator Representative Present:</b>
<b>Operator Representative Signature:</b> (Field Issuance Only)	

**INSPECTION INFORMATION**

<b>Inspection Start Date:</b> June 8, 2021 <b>Inspection Start Time:</b> 16:30 <b>Inspection End Date:</b> June 8, 2021 <b>Inspection End Time:</b> 17:30		<b>Inspection Type:</b> Coal Complete Inspection <b>Inspection Reason:</b> Normal I&E Program <b>Weather:</b> Windy	
<b>Joint Inspection Agency:</b>  None		<b>Joint Inspection Contacts:</b>	
<b>Post Inspection Agency:</b>  None		<b>Post Inspection Contacts:</b>	
<b>Inspector(s):</b>  Robert Zuber, P.E.	<b>Inspector's Signature:</b>  <i>Robert D. Zuber</i>		<b>Signature Date:</b>  6/11/2021

**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 &amp; Grading

NA - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

NA - Explosives

R - Fish &amp; Wildlife

R - Hydrologic Balance

Y - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Other

NA - Processing Waste

NA - Roads

R - Reclamation Success

R - Revegetation

NA - Subsidence

Y - Slides and Other Damage

Y - 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 June 8, 2021. No Coors Energy Company (CEC) representative was present at the inspection. The site is in Permanent Cessation. Reclamation activities were completed in the fall of 2020.

The weather was hot and windy. The ground was dry.

**AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS – Rule 5.02.4(1):**

**The records were not complete. The SL-10 findings and cost estimate were missing. Routine inspection reports were not updated, including the monthly DRMS inspection reports, pest and weed reports, and pond inspection reports. This problem needs to be addressed by August 1, 2021 at the latest.**

**FISH and WILDLIFE – Rule 4.18:**

Birds were seen and heard around the ponds, including an owl at Sediment Pond 2.

**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:

Sediment Pond 2 and the Dugout Pond contained small amounts of water. Levels were several feet below spillways. Neither pond was discharging during the inspection. There were no signs that they had discharged recently. As usual, they both contained large amounts of riparian vegetation. No problems were observed with the two ponds.

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Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 4

**RECLAMATION SUCCESS - Rule 4.15, Rule 3:**

A continuing issue is the movement of sand by wind (and possibly the movement of seed as well). This was observed on the east portion of the Long Term Spoil Area (which has been reclaimed).

The area southeast of the Dugout Pond (a relatively steep hill) was found to be stable.

**REVEGETATION – Rule 4.15****Vegetative Cover; Timing:**

Cheat grass is the predominant species in some of the newly reclaimed areas, such as the reclaimed road adjacent to Sediment Pond 2. In other newly reclaimed areas (e.g., the reclaimed road west of the Dugout Pond), there is very little vegetation or young vegetation has been buried by wind-driven sand.

At Area 25, bare areas and dead vegetation was observed. **The vegetation may be cheat grass that was intentionally killed by CEC or a consultant as a part of weed maintenance. This will be a subject of conversation between the Division and CEC.**

**SIGNS AND MARKERS – Rule 4.02:**

The updated entrance sign includes contact information for DRMS.

**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**



**Cheat grass on reclaimed road south of Sediment Pond 2**



**Bare area and dead vegetation in Area 25**

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**Reclaimed road west of the Dugout Pond**



**Looking north toward the Dugout Pond, with reclaimed topsand pile in foreground**

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**AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS****PERMIT RECORDS**

DRMS Permit	Exp. Nov 2021
Permit Application w/Revisions	pending
Findings Document	RN-07 (Aug 2017)
<b>Insurance Certificate</b>	<b>Exp. 11/1/2021</b>
Bond Document	\$1,197,459 (March 2016)
Phased Bond Release	SL-09
Documents/Findings	(August 2018)
Air Emission Permits	123008803
County Special Use Permits	Weld #1160, #386
UG Mining Landowner Notification	NA
Subsidence Monitoring Reports	NA
Subsidence Monitoring Data	NA
Rill & Gully Survey	NA
Vegetation Monitoring Data	2020 ARR
Specific Variance Approvals	NA
Annual Reclamation Reports	2020
Midterm Review Documents	MT-07 (May 2019)
DRMS/OSM Inspection	Through
Reports/Enforcement Actions (3 Years)	September 2020
Transfers/Succession of Operator	NA
Temporary Cessation Notification	NA
Reclamation Cost Estimate	MT-07 *1
<b>CERTIFICATIONS</b>	
Pond Certifications	Yes
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	NA
NPDES Records	NA
Stormwater Management Plan	NA
SPCC Plan	Updated 2012
MSHA Pond Inspections	NA
State Engineer's Pond Inspection	NA
Quarterly Pond Inspections	Through 2020 Q3
Annual Hydrology Reports	2020
• Ground Water Monitoring	yes
• Surface Water Monitoring	NA
• Spring & Seep Monitoring	NA
• Mine Water Discharge Monitoring	NA
• Mine Inflow Study	NA
• Water Consumption Records	NA
Well Permits	*2

**BLASTING RECORDS**

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

**ADDITIONAL RECORDS (specify)**

<b>Pest and Weed report</b>	<b>Recent years not found</b>

**COMMENTS:**

\*1 RCE in April 2019 for \$1,206,911

\*2 Domestic use well and fire protection well (048289f, 24650f)

\*3 No explosives used since 1995.

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