



STATE OF
COLORADO

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

NT Creek inspection report

1 message

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Thu, Sep 16, 2021 at 3:04 PM

To: Stan Muhr <minrecinc@gmail.com>, Jim Stover <jestover@bresnan.net>, Daniel MacKinnon <dmackinnon@osmre.gov>

Gents -

Please find my report from Monday attached.

Thanks,
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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INSP-REPORTC_C1981025_RDZ_09142021101101.pdf
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COLORADO
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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 P.O. Box 117 Grand Junction, CO 81502	County: Garfield Operation Type: Underground Permit Status: Inactive Ownership: Private
	Operator Representative Present: Stan Muhr, Jim Stover
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) 	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: September 13, 2021 Inspection Start Time: 12:30 Inspection End Date: September 13, 2021 Inspection End Time: 15:00		Inspection Type: Coal Complete Inspection Inspection Reason: Surety Release Requested Weather: Clear	
Joint Inspection Agency: None		Joint Inspection Contacts:	
Post Inspection Agency: OSM		Post Inspection Contacts:	
Inspector(s): Robert Zuber, P.E.	Inspector's Signature: <i>Robert D. Zuber</i>		Signature Date: 9/14/2021

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 & Grading

NA - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

NA - Explosives

Y - Fish & Wildlife

R - Hydrologic Balance

R - 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 September 13, 2021. Per Rule 3.03.2(2), this inspection was part of the requirements for the operator's application for final bond release, SL-07.

Other parties at the inspection included:

- Stan Muhr of MINREC, Inc.
- Jim Stover of Stover & Associates (also representing MINREC, Inc.)
- Dan MacKinnon, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement.

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management and William Fales were also invited to the inspection, but neither attended. Mr. Fales is a representative of the landowner, North Thompson-Four Mile Mineral & Land Corporation.

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

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. In fact, the pump had been removed for the winter.

AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS – Rule 5.02.4(1):

A check at the Garfield County building in Glenwood Springs revealed that records for the North Thompson Creek Mine were complete and well organized.

A list of records is provided in this report.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 0

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1

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 appeared very stable.

No problems were identified with the ponds. 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 of the ponds except the Refuse Pond were discharging. The Refuse Pond contained some water, well below the spillways, and the embankment was in good condition.

The cattails in the upper ponds is sparse. Many cattails were seen around Pond P-9.

The water discharging from the pipe at the top of the system was relatively clear, and (unlike in the past), there was very little staining on the ground below the pipe. The water discharging from Pond 9 was very clear, with no mineral staining on the soil and no odor. It flowed into the channel that directs the water to the Refuse Pond, and there was no discharge to the creek (Outfall 01).

No problems were identified with ditches between the ponds or the aeration ditch above the Long Pond. The ditch above the Refuse Pond (which was breeched in September 2020) was functioning along its entire length.

GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE:

The area where pond cleanings have been dumped was in good condition.

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.

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PHOTOGRAPHS



Pipe carrying mine water to the treatment system



Pond cleaning dump area

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Discharge from pipe at top of treatment system



Aeration ditch above the Long Pond

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Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1



Downstream end of Long Pond



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

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Pond P-9, with considerable number of cattails



Channel above the Refuse Pond

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The Refuse Pond, with inlet in foreground



Refuse Pond discharge pipe (not flowing) and embankment

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AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS**PERMIT RECORDS**

DRMS Permit	Expires August 2023
Permit Application w/Revisions	yes
Findings Document	RN7, 9/17/2018
Insurance Certificate	Exp. 9/1/2022
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	June 2021
Vegetation Monitoring Data	NA
Specific Variance Approvals	NA
Annual Reclamation Reports	2020
Midterm Review Documents	MT8, 1/4/2021
DRMS/OSM Inspection Reports/Enforcement Actions (3 Years)	Through May 2021
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 August 2021
Stormwater Management Plan	NA
SPCC Plan	NA
MSHA Pond Inspections	NA
State Engineer's Pond Inspection	NA
Quarterly Pond Inspections	2Q 2021
Annual Hydrology Reports	2020
• 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 June 2021. Also, construction certifications are available in the records. These were stamped by Professional Engineers in the 1980s and 1990s.

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