



U.S. DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
Mine Site Evaluation
State Program



1. Permittee/Person MINREC INC		9. Permit Number C81025		10. Permit Type PP	
2. Address 2024 E 3/4 ROAD		11. Field Visit Date 9/13/2021 <small>mm - dd - yyyy</small>		12. Purpose OB3	
3. City GRAND JUNCTION		13. SRA Present Y		14. Permit Status IN	
4. State CO		15. Site Status P3		16. Facility Type B	
5. Zip Code 81503		17. OSM Office # 140		18. CCID # 	
6. Phone Number (970) 242-3931		19. Land Code SF		20. M.S.H.A. ID # 	
7. Operator Name, if Different than Permittee MINREC INC		21. State Abbrev. CO		22. County/Burrough GARFIELD	
8. Mine Name NORTH THOMPSON CREEK		23. AVS Permittee Entity ID Number 113502		24. State Office 	
25. Hours 2.0 a. Permit Review 2.0 b. Site Visit Time 5.0 c. Travel Time 10.0 d. Report Writing		26. Signature Block Signature: Daniel MacKinnon, ID#554 Inspector's Name: Date: 9/23/2021		27. Reviewing Official: Signature: Howard Strand Reviewer's Name: Date: 9/28/2021	
Permit Type - Item 10 IP = Interim Program PP = Permanent Program NP = No Permit					
Purpose Type Codes - Item 12 Oxx...Oversight Rfx...Reclamation Fees CCR...Citizen Complaint Referral (non-site visit) Axx...Assistance Fxx...Federal Actions CC...Citizen Complaint (initial site visit) CCF...Assistance					
Joint Inspection - Item 13 A joint inspection is when a state inspector accompanies an OSM inspector at any time during the review of the mine site					
Permit Status - Item 14 A Active: Coal mining activities occurring or permitted but not yet disturbed. IN Inactive (Permanent Program Permit): Phase II completed or Temporary Cessation of Operations. (Interim Program Permit): Coal mining completed and reclamation activities initiated. BR Bond Release: Reclamation completed and State Regulatory Authority(RA) has released all of the bond (Phase III Release). AB Abandoned: All surface and underground coal mining activities have ceased and operator has left the site without completing reclamation as defined in 30 CFR 840:11(g). AB1 Bond Forfeiture: Bond forfeiture officially in process or completed and reclamation in progress or not yet commenced. AB2 Partially Reclaimed Forfeiture: Forfeited site where all bonds have been used to reclaim site, but site not reclaimed to Program standards. AB3 Reclaimed Forfeiture: Forfeited site that has been reclaimed to Program standards. NA Not Applicable: When site is unpermitted.					
Site Status - Item 15 ND No Disturbance: No coal mining and reclamation operations have been started. EX Coal Exploration: Coal exploration operations have started and where coal mining operations have not begun. AP Active Coal Producing: Coal surface mining activities are occurring. AN Active Non-Producing: Active non-producing facility such as tipple or preparation plant. NM No Mining: The Permit Status is active, site is not in Temporary Cessation, no surface coal mining activity, and site not regraded. MC Mining Complete: No mining activity on site, site regraded and awaiting bond release. TC Temporary Cessation: The RA has granted cessation of mining pursuant to 30 CFR 816/817:13(b). P1 Phase I Release: At least Phase I bond release granted for entire permitted area. For interim permits, partial bond release. P2 Phase II Release: At least Phase II bond release for the entire permitted area. P3 Phase III Release: Reclamation completed and the RA has released all bond. NS Non-Site Visit: Status of site not determined. FP Forfeiture Pending: The RA is pursuing actions to revoke the permit, collect the performance bond(s), and/or reclamation of forfeited site is in progress. FR Forfeited and Reclaimed: Forfeiture reclamation completed. FO Abandoned Site: Abandoned site that is permitted but there is no bond. WC Wildcat: Coal mining and reclamation operations have or are taking place and the activity is not covered by the required permits from the RA.					
Facility Type Codes - Item 16 A....Surface D....Ancillary (Haulroad, Conveyor, and/or Rails) H....Exploration Permits K....Government Financed Construction Exemption B....Underground E....Refuse and/or Impoundment I....Notice of Intent to Explore L....Remining site permitted under 30 CFR 785.25 C....Preparation Plant F....Loading Facility and/or Tipple J....Exempt 16 and 2/3					
Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (SBREFA) Your Comments are Important The Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman and 10 Regional Fairness Boards were established to receive comments from small businesses about Federal agency enforcement actions. The Ombudsman will annually evaluate the enforcement activities and rate each agency's responsiveness to small business. If you are a small business (a business with 500 or fewer employees including those of affiliates) and wish to comment on the enforcement or compliance activities of OSM, call 1-888-REG-FAIR (1-888-734-3247).					

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Permittee/
Person

MINREC INC

Permit
Number

C81025

Field Visit
Date

9/13/2021

State Program
Continuation Page

28. Performance Standard Categories

Codes: 1=Compliance, 2=Noncompliance, 3=Not Planned, 4=Not Started, 5=Noncompliance Identified Elsewhere, 6=Previously Cited, 7=Permit Defect

A. Administrative

1. ☐ Mining within Valid Permit
2. ☐ Mining within Bonded Area
3. ☒ Terms & Conditions of Permit
4. ☐ Liability Insurance
5. ☐ Ownership and Control
6. ☐ Temporary Cessation
7. ☐ AML Rec. Fees - Non-Respondent
8. ☐ AML Rec. Fees - Failure to Pay

B. Hydrologic Balance

1. ☒ Drainage Control
2. ☐ Inspections & Certifications
3. ☐ Siltation Structures
4. ☒ Discharge Structures
5. ☐ Diversions
6. ☐ Effluent Limits
7. ☐ Ground Water Monitoring
8. ☐ Surface Water Monitoring
9. ☐ Drainage - Acid-Toxic Materials
10. ☒ Impoundments
11. ☐ Stream Buffer Zones

C. Topsoil & Subsoil

1. ☐ Removal
2. ☐ Substitute Materials
3. ☐ Storage and Protection
4. ☐ Redistribution

D. Backfilling & Grading

1. ☐ Exposed Openings
2. ☐ Contemporaneous Reclamation
3. ☐ Approximate Original Contour
4. ☐ Highwall Elimination
5. ☐ Steep Slopes (includes downslope)
6. ☐ Handling of Acid and Toxic Materials
7. ☐ Stabilization (rills and gullies)

E. Excess Spoil Disposal

1. ☐ Placement
2. ☐ Drainage Control
3. ☐ Surface Stabilization
4. ☐ Inspections & Certifications

F. Coal Mine Waste (Refuse Piles/Impoundments)

1. ☐ Drainage Control
2. ☐ Surface Stabilization
3. ☐ Placement
4. ☐ Inspections & Certifications
5. ☐ Impounding Structures

G. Use of Explosives

1. ☐ Blaster Certification
2. ☐ Distance Prohibitions
3. ☐ Blast Survey/Schedule
4. ☐ Warnings & Records
5. ☐ Control of Adverse Effects

H. ☐ Subsidence Control Plan

I. Roads

1. ☐ Road Construction
2. ☐ Certification
3. ☐ Drainage
4. ☐ Surfacing and Maintenance
5. ☐ Reclamation

J. Signs & Markers

1. ☐ Signs
2. ☐ Markers

K. ☐ Distance Prohibitions

L. Revegetation

1. ☒ Vegetative Cover
2. ☐ Timing

M. ☐ Postmining Land Use

N. Other

General
Performance
Category

Performance Standard Categories 30 CFR Counterparts

A. Administrative

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Valid Permit | 773.11 |
| 2. Mining within Bonded Area | 773.11 |
| 3. Terms & Conditions of Permit | 773.17 |
| 4. Liability Insurance | 800.60 |
| 5. Ownership and Control | 778.13 |
| 6. Temporary Cessation | 842.11(e) & 816/817.131 |
| 7. AML Rec. Fees - Non-Respondent | 870.15(b) |
| 8. AML Rec. Fees - Failure to Pay | 870.15(a) |

B. Hydrologic Balance (816/817.41-57)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Drainage Control | 45 |
| 2. Inspections & Certifications | 49(a)(10) |
| 3. Siltation Structures | 46 |
| 4. Discharge Structures | 47 |
| 5. Diversions | 43 |
| 6. Effluent Limits | 42 |
| 7. Ground Water Monitoring | 41(c) |
| 8. Surface Water Monitoring | 41(e) |
| 9. Drainage--Acid - Toxic Materials | 41(f) |
| 10. Impoundments | 49 |
| 11. Stream Buffer Zones | 57 |

C. Topsoil & Subsoil (816/817.22)

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| 1. Removal | 22(a) |
| 2. Substitute Materials | 22(c) |
| 3. Storage and Protection | 22(c) |
| 4. Redistribution | 22(d) |

D. Backfilling & Grading (816/817.95-107)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Exposed Openings | 816/817.13, 14, 15, & 823.11 & 21 |
| 2. Contemporaneous Reclamation | 100 |
| 3. Approximate Original Contour | 102(a)(1) |
| 4. Highwall Elimination | 102(a)(2) |
| 5. Steep Slopes (includes downslope) | 107 |
| 6. Handling of Acid & Toxic Materials | 102(c) |
| 7. Stabilization (rills and gullies) | 95(b) |

E. Excess Spoil Disposal (816/817.71-74)

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Placement | 71(e) |
| 2. Drainage Control | 71(f) |
| 3. Surface Stabilization | 71(g) |
| 4. Inspections & Certifications | 71(h) |

F. Coal Mine Waste (Refuse Piles/Impoundments) (816/817.81-84)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Drainage Control | 83(a) |
| 2. Surface Stabilization | 83(b) |
| 3. Placement | 83(c) |
| 4. Inspections and Certifications | 83(d) |
| 5. Impounding Structures | 84 |

G. Use of Explosives (816/817.61-68)

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| 1. Blaster Certification | 61(c) |
| 2. Distance Prohibitions | 61(d) |
| 3. Blast Survey/Schedule | 62-64 |
| 4. Warnings & Records | 66 & 68 |
| 5. Control of Adverse Effects | 67 |

H. Subsidence Control Plan (817.121-122)

I. Roads (816/817.150-151)

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Road Construction | 150(c) |
| 2. Certification | 151(a) |
| 3. Drainage | 150(b)-151(d) |
| 4. Surfacing and Maintenance | 150(e)-151(d) |
| 5. Reclamation | 150(f) |

J. Signs & Markers (816/817.11)

- | | |
|------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Signs | 11(a),(b),(c) |
| 2. Markers | 11(a),(b),(d),(e),(f) |

K. Distance Prohibitions (761.11)

L. Revegetation (816/817.111-116)

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| 1. Vegetative Cover | 111 & 116 |
| 2. Timing | 113 |

M. Postmining Land Use (816/817.133)

OSM Action

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1) Deferred to State Action | 6) ID-CO Issued (Imminent Danger to Public) |
| 2) TDN Issued | 7) Previously cited by RA, abatement pending |
| 3) NOV Issued | 8) Abated during or before OSM inspection |
| 4) FTA-CO Issued | 9) Follow-up of Federal Action |
| 5) IH-CO Issued | 0) Off-site impact with no violation |

Off-Site Impacts

- For each type of impact and resource affected, enter "N, D, or J" to describe the degree of off-site impact:
- | |
|-------------------------|
| N - Minor Occurrence |
| D - Moderate Occurrence |
| J - Major Occurrence |

MINE SITE INSPECTION NARRATIVE

COMPANY: MINEREC, Inc.

MINE: North Thompson Creek

PERMIT NO: C81025

DATE OF INSPECTION: September 13, 2021

WEATHER: Sunny and calm, temperature was in the 70s.

COMPANY OFFICIALS: Jim Stover, Stan Muhr

Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety Personnel (DRMS): Rob Zuber

OSMRE OFFICIAL: Dan MacKinnon #554

Overview

OSMRE conducted a final Phase III bond release oversight inspection with DRMS personnel and operator's representatives on September 13, 2021. The inspection was part of DRMS' Termination of Jurisdiction process for this permit. The site was stable and functioning as designed at the time of inspection.

No enforcement actions were issued as a result of this inspection.

Records Review

DRMS confirmed all records were up to date at the time of inspection.

Field Inspection

We began the field inspection with an overview of the mine and its history. We then hiked to the underground discharge pipe and walked the entire drainage that encompasses the remaining area within the permit. A PVC pipe diverts water from two reclaimed portals to the surface; the bridge that supports a section of this pipeline was stable and the pipe fully functional at the time of inspection (Figure 1). Orange precipitate was seen where the pipe discharges into an aeration ditch; according to DRMS this is normal and the orange precipitate was only present within the first few feet of this ditch at the time of inspection (Figure 2).

The aeration ditch which collects the water from the discharging portals was effectively conveying water to the next treatment structure (Long Pond, Figure 3). This pond discharged into a fully competent ditch, then into another stable pond (T-1, Figure 4) also holding water. Pond T-2 (Figure 5) was also holding water. Another ditch led water to Pond P-9 (Figure 6). One final ditch within the permit was stable and conveying water to a livestock pond that is not part of the permit. At the time of inspection all ponds and ditches within the active permit were holding and/or conveying water and functioning as designed, showing good plant diversity, and offered

abundant evidence of wildlife and livestock use (e.g. browse on vegetation, insects present in both air and water habitats).

We closed out the inspection by discussing our findings; no one expressed any concern over the condition of the permitted site. The pond and ditch system still has an active discharge permit from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and the group discussed required compliance for this permit irrespective of DRMS' Termination of Jurisdiction findings on the SMCRA permit. The operator's representatives stated they understood DRMS' decision on the SMCRA permit held no sway over compliance with the CDPHE discharge permit.



Figure 1 – The fully functioning pipe outflowing the reclaimed portal.



Figure 2 - Portal Discharge at a normal flow rate at the time of inspection.



Figure 3 - A section of the Long Pond, stable and fully functional at the time of inspection.



Figure 4 - Pond T-2, stable and fully functional at the time of inspection.



Figure 5 - Pond T-2, stable and well vegetated at the time of inspection.



Figure 6 - Pond P-9, stable and fully functional at the time of inspection.