



STATE OF
COLORADO

Drinkard - DNR, Connor <connor.drinkard@state.co.us>

Lorencito Canyon Mine, C-1996-084, April 14 2022 Inspection Report

Drinkard - DNR, Connor <connor.drinkard@state.co.us>

Wed, Apr 20, 2022 at 1:16 PM

To: nmason@newelkcoal.com

Cc: "Ebert - DNR, Jared" <jared.ebert@state.co.us>

Hello Nick,

Please see the attached inspection report and let me know if you have any questions.

Best regards,

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Connor Drinkard

Environmental Protection Specialist Intern



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

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INSP-REPORTC_C1996084_CJD_04182022085630.pdf
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PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1996-084 Mine Name: Lorencito Canyon Mine Operator: New Elk Coal Company, LLC Operator Address: Mr. Mark Gray 12250 Highway 12 Weston, CO 81091	County: Las Animas Operation Type: Surface Permit Status: Permanent Cessation Ownership: Private
	Operator Representative Present: Nick Mason
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: April 14, 2022 Inspection Start Time: 10:45 Inspection End Date: April 14, 2022 Inspection End Time: 12:45	Inspection Type: Coal Partial Inspection Inspection Reason: Normal I&E Program Weather: Clear
Joint Inspection Agency: None	Joint Inspection Contacts: None
Post Inspection Agency: None	Post Inspection Contacts: None
Inspector(s): Connor Drinkard Jared Ebert	Inspector's Signature:  Signature Date: April 19, 2022

Inspection Topic Summary

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

N - Air Resource Protection

N - Roads

N - Availability of Records

N - Reclamation Success

R - Backfill & Grading

N - Revegetation

N - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

N - Subsidence

N - Explosives

N - Slides and Other Damage

N - Fish & Wildlife

N - Support Facilities On-site

R - Hydrologic Balance

N - Signs and Markers

N - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Support Facilities Not On-site

N - Other

N - Special Categories Of Mining

N - Processing Waste

N - Topsoil

COMMENTS

This was a partial inspection of the Lorencito Cayon Mine, Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (DRMS or Division) permit number C-1996-084, operated by New Elk Coal Company, LLC (NECC). I, Connor Drinkard and Jared Ebert with DRMS conducted the inspection. Mr. Nick Mason accompanied us during the inspection. Vince Massarotti with NECC was aware of the inspection.

Maintenance items are in orange text below.

There are no pending permitting actions. However, the permit for the site will expire on November 7, 2022. In order to ensure that NECC may continue operating the mine beyond that date, a complete application for renewal of the permit must be received at least 180 days prior to its expiration (Rule 2.08.5(3)(f)). Therefore, a complete application would be required on or before May 11, 2022.

BACKFILL and GRADING – Rule 4.14

Contemporaneous Reclamation 4.14.1; Approximate Original Contour 4.14.2; Highwall Elimination 4.14.1(2)(f); Steep Slopes 4.14.2, 4.27; Handling of Acid and Toxic Materials 4.14.3; Stabilization of Rills and Gullies 4.14.6:

Fill 007 was overall stable and vegetated but several erosion features were observed that should be monitored and addressed. These include a rill near where Ditch D76 enters Fill 007.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 7

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 3



Figure 1. Fill 7 western drainage looking southwest.

Fill 009 was overall stable and vegetated but several erosion features were observed that should be monitored and addressed. These include an animal hole on the face of Fill 009 northeast of where Ditch D75 enters the fill area on the inter-bench embankment. Vegetation was sparse in this area, and NECC should either stabilize the area or monitor it to ensure future rills and gullies will not form at this location.



Figure 2. Animal hole in embankment of bench on Fill 009 near where Ditch D75 enters the fill.

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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:

Ditch D1 and Ditch D96 were inspected and found to be stable.

Erosion was observed on Ditch D14 where it discharges into Ditch D96. NECC will need to stabilize this area that has steep and eroding sides.



Figure 3. Drainage ditch D14 where it discharges into D96.

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Figure 4. Drainage ditch D14, side cutting erosion observed. Photo of where D14 discharges to D96.

Culvert 2 appeared clear and functional. Pond 009 was holding water but not discharging. The embankment appeared stable.



Figure 5. Culvert 2 and Pond 009 looking northeast.

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Pond 009a was holding a small amount of water but did not appear to be discharging. The embankment appeared stable.



Figure 6. Pond 009a looking north.

Ditch D4 was inspected and found to be stable.



Figure 7. Ditch D4 looking west.

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Ponds 006a and 007a were holding water but not discharging. The embankments appeared stable.



Figure 8. Pond 006a.

Erosion was observed outside of branches placed in Ditch D7 north east of Pond 006a. Please monitor and address appropriately as needed.



Figure 9. Ditch D7 looking north.

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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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