

Currently, New Elk Mine is actively mining and mining equipment consists of a continuous miners to a feeder breaker placing coal onto conveyor belt haulage in each section which is transported to the surface by conveyor belt.

(2) Description of Surface Operations

The surface facilities associated with the New Elk Mine are show on Map 11--Sheet 1 East Portal Roads, Slope Track and Cut Areas, Map 11-Sheet 2 East Portal Utilities, Map 11-Sheet 3 Facilities, and Map 12 Surface Facilities and Roads West Portal. The surface disturbance boundary is also shown on these maps. The New Elk mining operations began in 1952 and the majority of surface facilities are built on development refuse used as fill in the Purgatoire River Valley. Construction and placement of some of the surface facilities took place prior to August 3, 1977. Major exceptions include the preparation plant and associated facilities, sediment ponds, and Apache Canyon airshafts. Individual facilities are indicated on Table 19 Surface Facilities list and shown on Maps 11 and 12. Reclamation of these facilities is discussed in subsequent sections of this document.