



Simmons - DNR, Leigh <leigh.simmons@state.co.us>

Groundwater seep at the Bear Mine

1 message

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Wed, May 18, 2022 at 1:52 PM

To: jake@theconservationcenter.org

Jake,

My email is in response to our earlier phone conversation regarding the groundwater seep at the reclaimed Bear Mine in Somerset, CO.

Firstly, to access the documents from the DRMS archive relating to the Bear Mine, go the the Division's website: <https://drms.colorado.gov/>

Click on the link for "DRMS Weblink (laserfiche)"

In the Template box, select "DRMS Permit Index"

In the Permit No. box type "C1981033" (as shown below)

You'll see 149 pages of results, with 20 results per page. You can filter the results using any of the other dialogue boxes, and sort the results by clicking on the column headers. (I sorted the results by doc date)



Imaged Documents

Search

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Template

Template

DRMS Permit Index

Permit No

C1981033

IBM Index Class Name

Doc Date

from

to

Doc Name Note

Doc Name

From

To

Type & Sequence

Annual Report Year

Report Quarter_Month

Permit Index Doc Type

Section_Exhibit Name

Inspection Date

Search

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Name	Permit No	IBM Index Class Name	Doc Date	Doc Name Note	Doc Name
2022-02-15_INSPECTION - C1981033	C1981033	Inspection	2/15/2022		Inspection Report
2021-11-15_INSPECTION - C1981033	C1981033	Inspection	11/15/2021		Inspection Report
2021-08-23_INSPECTION - C1981033	C1981033	Inspection	8/23/2021		Inspection Report
2021-06-16_INSPECTION - C1981033	C1981033	Inspection	6/16/2021		Inspection Report
2021-04-21_GENERAL DOCUMENTS - C1981033	C1981033	General Documents	4/21/2021		Notice Of Proposed Reduction In Inspection Frequency
2021-04-19_INSPECTION - C1981033	C1981033	Inspection	4/19/2021		Inspection Report
2021-04-06_INSPECTION - C1981033	C1981033	Inspection	4/6/2021		Inspection Report
2021-03-31_GENERAL DOCUMENTS - C1981033	C1981033	General Documents	3/31/2021	Inspection Frequency	
2021-03-25_GENERAL DOCUMENTS - C1981033 (3)	C1981033	General Documents	3/25/2021	Reduced Inspection Frequency	Findings of Fact. Conclusions of Law and Order
2021-03-25_GENERAL DOCUMENTS - C1981033	C1981033	General Documents	3/25/2021		Correspondence
2021-03-22_INSPECTION - C1981033	C1981033	Inspection	3/22/2021		Inspection Report
2021-02-01_INSPECTION - C1981033	C1981033	Inspection	2/1/2021		Inspection Report
2020-12-29_INSPECTION - C1981033	C1981033	Inspection	12/29/2020		Inspection Report
2020-12-04_INSPECTION - C1981033	C1981033	Inspection	12/4/2020		Inspection Report
2020-10-22_INSPECTION - C1981033	C1981033	Inspection	10/22/2020		Inspection Report
2020-09-29_INSPECTION - C1981033	C1981033	Inspection	9/29/2020		Inspection Report
2020-08-17_INSPECTION - C1981033	C1981033	Inspection	8/17/2020		Inspection Report
2020-08-11_INSPECTION - C1981033	C1981033	Inspection	8/11/2020		Inspection Report
2020-06-14_INSPECTION - C1981033	C1981033	Inspection	6/14/2020		Inspection Report
2020-05-21_INSPECTION - C1981033	C1981033	Inspection	5/21/2020		Inspection Report

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Most of the recent results are inspection reports, but working through the pages backwards in time, you'll see a number of results relating to the permit revocation back in 2013, and to the termination of the discharge permit in 2012 (on pages 8, 9 and 10 of 149).

The Division's analysis of the seep is summarised in a detailed memo written by Mike Boulay in 2012, which you'll find at the top of page 10/149. I won't attempt to paraphrase the memo - here's a [direct link](#) so there can be no confusion about the document referred to.

When a permit is revoked the reclamation bond is forfeited by the operator and used by the Division to complete reclamation through a formal contract/bid process. In this case the site was reclaimed, following the previously approved reclamation plan, in late 2016 and 2017. The contractor that did the work was McCollom Excavating of Nederland, CO. The reclamation project was overseen by Jeff Litteral of the Division's Inactive Mines Program. I continued regular monthly inspections throughout. As part of the reclamation project the "treatment pond" was backfilled and regraded, and the seep water which had previously filled the pond was diverted to the river through a "sinuous channel". The sinuous channel is now well vegetated with sedges and rushes. A small pond has formed at its western end, before the water discharges to the river - this is not a designed structure and does not have a formal sediment control function.

I hope this helps you to understand the situation at the reclaimed Bear mine, and allows you to provide some reassurance to concerned citizens. Feel free to contact me if you have follow-up questions.

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Environmental Protection Specialist



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