



**PERMIT INFORMATION**

<b>Permit Number:</b> C-1981-028 <b>Mine Name:</b> Keenesburg Strip Mine <b>Operator:</b> Coors Energy Company <b>Operator Address:</b> Mr. Ben Moline PO Box 4030 Golden, CO 80402	<b>County:</b> Weld <b>Operation Type:</b> Surface <b>Permit Status:</b> Permanent Cessation <b>Ownership:</b> Private
	<b>Operator Representative Present:</b>  Ben Moline
<b>Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)</b>  	

**INSPECTION INFORMATION**

<b>Inspection Start Date:</b> August 29, 2022 <b>Inspection Start Time:</b> 09:00 <b>Inspection End Date:</b> August 29, 2022 <b>Inspection End Time:</b> 12:45		<b>Inspection Type:</b> Coal Partial Inspection <b>Inspection Reason:</b> Surety Release Requested <b>Weather:</b> Clear	
<b>Joint Inspection Agency:</b>  None		<b>Joint Inspection Contacts:</b>  	
<b>Post Inspection Agency:</b>  None		<b>Post Inspection Contacts:</b>  	
<b>Inspector(s):</b>  Robert Zuber, P.E.	<b>Inspector's Signature:</b>  <i>Robert D. Zuber</i>		<b>Signature Date:</b>  8/30/2022

**Inspection Topic Summary**

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

N - Air Resource Protection

N - Availability of Records

NA - Backfill &amp; Grading

NA - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

NA - Explosives

N - Fish &amp; Wildlife

Y - Hydrologic Balance

Y - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Other

NA - Processing Waste

NA - Roads

Y - Reclamation Success

N - Revegetation

NA - Subsidence

Y - Slides and Other Damage

N - Support Facilities On-site

N - Signs and Markers

NA - Support Facilities Not On-site

NA - Special Categories Of Mining

NA - Topsoil

**COMMENTS**

This inspection, conducted by Rob Zuber of DRMS, was prompted by a Coors Energy Company (CEC) application for a Phase I bond release (SL-11). Ben Moline represented CEC during the inspection. Other participants included Dan MacKinnon and D.J. Cunningham of the Office of Surface Mining (U.S. Department of the Interior).

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

The application requests Phase I release for eight areas:

- Areas 35, 43, and 44 are basically the reclaimed B Pit.
- Areas 36 and 37 generally include the reclaimed Long Term Spoil Area and Topsand Pile A-3.
- Area 38 is the location where Topsand Piles A-1 and B-1 existed prior to reclamation.
- Area 42 consists of reclaimed roads as well as a storage area west of Sediment Pond 2.
- Area 45 includes the perimeter ditch that extends from near the northwest corner of the site to Sediment Pond 2.

Please see Figure 1 from the application (below).

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 2

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 0







The drainage patterns for seven of the eight areas match the reclamation plan for the site, including Appendix Q-1 in the Permit Application Package. The observed drainage patterns are as follows:

- Within Areas 35, 43, and 44, the general drainage pattern is to the northeast. On the west side of these areas, however, there is a swale that drains to the north and then east across the north portion of Area 43.
- Areas 36 and 37 drain to the northeast.
- Most of Area 42 is essentially flat. The “steepest” portion, the reclaimed road west of the Dugout Pond, drains to the north at approximately a 1% slope.
- The ditch in Area 45 drains to the southeast and then east to Sediment Pond 2.

Area 38, the possible exception to the paragraph above, requires further discussion between DRMS and CEC. This will be part of the adequacy review for SL-11.

No problems were identified with erosion at any of the eight areas. The channel in Area 45 appears to be functioning well, as there is no sign of water flowing over the banks, and years of inspecting this channel have not indicated problems.

To further assess the topography at the site, two methods were employed:

- Calculation of slopes in certain areas with a rangefinder, a tool which uses laser technology to determine horizontal and vertical distances.
- GPS technology, utilizing a smart phone (iPhone 8) in communication via Bluetooth to a GNSS receiver. The receiver that was used is an Arrow Gold, manufactured by Eos Positioning Systems. Point data was collected at both ends of cross-sections A-A' and D-D' from the application.

The results of using the rangefinder show that slopes at the site (estimated by DRMS) are generally in agreement with slopes in the application:

- The Area 35 slope to the northeast (approximately transect A-A' in the application) of approximately 5% is somewhat above the slope indicated on the cross-section in the application, approximately 3%.
- Area 38 slopes to the southwest (approximately transect B-B' in the application) at 1.8%. A comparison cannot be made to the application data at this time. Details on the topography of Area 38 need to be developed during the adequacy portion of the review of this application.
- The portion of Area 42 that is due west of the Dugout Pond slopes to the north at 1.3%. This is close to the slope of 1.1% estimated from the map in the application.
- Area 44 slopes to the northeast at approximately 3.3%. This is close to the slope of 2.6% estimated from the map in the application.

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The GPS data also suggest that the slopes of cross-sections in the application are in agreement with DRMS estimates. However, the DRMS elevation data collected with GPS is somewhat suspect for two reasons:

- During collection of data in the field by DRMS, at some of the points, the software indicated that the accuracy was as poor as 0.7 meter.
- The elevations collected by DRMS do not match the elevations in the application, and the differences vary from approximately 0.2 feet to six feet.

Staff at the Office of Surface Mining are further analyzing the data for the source of errors (and possible correction), and this analysis may inform the forthcoming adequacy review by DRMS.

**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**



**Area 37, east end, looking north**



**Area 38, looking north toward facilities**

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**Area 42, west of Dugout Pond, looking north**

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Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 0





**Area 44, looking east**



**Area 45, looking east toward Sediment Pond 2**

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 2

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 0





Area 45, east end of channel, above Sediment Pond 2

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