



STATE OF
COLORADO

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

New Elk Mine, C-1981-012, 2Q 2022 Waste Pile Inspection Report

1 message

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

Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 9:19 AM

To: Nick Mason <nmason@newelkcoal.com>

Cc: bstormes@newelkcoal.com, Brock Bowles <brock.bowles@state.co.us>

Hello Nick,

I have reviewed the 2Q 2022 waste pile inspection report, the review letter is attached. Can you please provide me a copy of the compaction test results? Also, please include these results as part of the submission each quarter please.

Thanks,

Jared

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Jared Ebert

Senior Environmental Protection Specialist

***I am working remotely, please feel free to call my cell at (720) 413-6466**



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

P 303.866.3567 ext. 8120 | F 303.832.8106 |

Physical: 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203

Mailing: DRMS Room 215, 1001 E 62nd Ave, Denver, CO 80216

jared.ebert@state.co.us | <https://drms.colorado.gov/>



2Q2022_WasteBankInspReview_C1981012_15Sep2022.pdf

313K

September 15, 2022

New Elk Coal Company, LLC.

Attn: Mark Gray

12250 Highway 12

Weston, Colorado 81091

**Re: New Elk Mine; C-1981-012
Second Quarter 2022 Coal Waste Bank Inspection Report Review**

Dear Mr. Gray:

The Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety (DRMS or Division) received a quarterly inspection report for the three coal waste banks at the New Elk Mine on July 12, 2022. The report covers the second quarter, 2022 monitoring period. The site was inspected on June 20, 2022. The report appears to be in compliance with DRMS Regulations 4.09.1(11) and 4.10.2(2), unless noted below.

Development Waste Disposal Area No. 1 (DWDA No. 1) was inspected. This feature was closed and reclaimed in 2004. The area received Phase 1 bond release in 2005. No issues were noted.

Development Waste Disposal Area No. 2 (DWDA No. 2) was inspected. According to the report refuse placement has been completed and the operator has trucked excess waste to the RDA so that finished slopes can be brought to approved grade. The excess storage space on the west end of the pile is used as a sediment drying area. The sump on the east end of the pile was noted as being cleaned out at the time of the inspection. No refuse placement has occurred since the May 2012 compaction testing that indicated approved plan compliance. NECC cited they observed some surface erosion of the pile but not enough to make the area unstable and that no signs of failure or instability were noted. However, a rill was noted on the east end of the waste pile and the inspector indicated the rill should be filled and check dams put in place to prevent the rill from developing again. DRMS noted during the August 23, 2022 site inspection that this maintenance work was conducted, the rill was repaired and check dams were installed.

The Refuse Disposal Area (RDA) was inspected. According to the report New Elk Coal Company, LLC. (NECC) has begun production again and therefore has placed refuse on the pile since re-initiation of production in June 2021. According to the report sumps on top of the RDA have been recently cleaned. Periodically CTL-Thompson, a geotechnical engineering firm, evaluates refuse compaction. According to the report, testing has demonstrated that the operation has achieved in excess of the required 90% compaction. However, NECC did not provide documentation of compaction testing results as the report indicates. **Per Rule 4.10.2(2)(b), DRMS requests that NECC provide documentation that the required level of compaction has been achieved during this monitoring period. The Division requests NECC provide these test results by October 14, 2022.** According to the Permit Application Package (PAP), compaction tests will be taken frequently and at locations of not less than one per every other layer at random locations across the pile. Three monitoring wells were monitored for water levels. No issues were noted.



The inspection was conducted by Vince Massarotti, under the direction of Mr. Stormes, a registered professional engineer licensed in the State of Colorado. The inspection report was stamped by Mr. Stormes and dated June 23, 2022.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me at Jared.Ebert@state.co.us or (303) 866-3567 ext. 8120.

Sincerely,



Jared Ebert
Senior Environmental Protection Specialist

Ec: Nick Mason; NECC, nmason@newelkcoal.com
Bill Stormes; NECC, bstormes@newelkcoal.com