



## COLORADO


Division of Reclamation,  
Mining and Safety

Department of Natural Resources

### PERMIT INFORMATION

<b>Permit Number:</b> C-1981-019 <b>Mine Name:</b> Colowyo Coal Mine <b>Operator:</b> Colowyo Coal Company L.P. <b>Operator Address:</b> Mr Tony Tennyson 5731 State Highway 13 Meeker, CO 81641	<b>County:</b> Moffat, Rio Blanco <b>Operation Type:</b> Surface <b>Permit Status:</b> Active <b>Ownership:</b> Private
	<b>Operator Representative Present:</b>  Tony Tennyson and Tom Fry
<b>Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)</b>  	

### INSPECTION INFORMATION

<b>Inspection Start Date:</b> September 28, 2022 <b>Inspection Start Time:</b> 08:00 <b>Inspection End Date:</b> September 29, 2022 <b>Inspection End Time:</b> 12:00		<b>Inspection Type:</b> Coal Complete Inspection <b>Inspection Reason:</b> Normal I&E Program <b>Weather:</b> Clear	
<b>Joint Inspection Agency:</b>  None		<b>Joint Inspection Contacts:</b>  None	
<b>Post Inspection Agency:</b>  None		<b>Post Inspection Contacts:</b>  None	
<b>Inspector(s):</b>  Zach Trujillo	<b>Inspector's Signature:</b> 		<b>Signature Date:</b>  10/4/22

**Inspection Topic Summary**

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

N - Air Resource Protection

Y - Roads

Y - Availability of Records

R - Reclamation Success

R - Backfill &amp; Grading

Y - Revegetation

R - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

N - Subsidence

R - Explosives

N - Slides and Other Damage

R - Fish &amp; Wildlife

Y - Support Facilities On-site

R - Hydrologic Balance

R - Signs and Markers

R - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Support Facilities Not On-site

R - Other

N - Special Categories Of Mining

N - Processing Waste

R - Topsoil

**COMMENTS**

This was a complete inspection by the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) of the Colowyo Mine conducted by Zach Trujillo of the Division on September 28 - 29, 2022. Tony Tennyson representing Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association (Tri-State), Tom Fry and Tony Tennyson representing Colowyo Coal Company (Colowyo) accompanied the inspection. The weather during the inspection was clear with dry ground conditions. Temperatures during the inspection were around 70 degrees fahrenheit.

**AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS – Rule 5.02.4(1):**

All records are kept on site at the Colowyo Mine's office building. Please see the Division's Availability of Records checklist at the end of this inspection report for more detailed information.

**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:

Backfill in the West Pit was inspected. There was no activity during the inspection. Additional excess spoil continues to be removed from the western portion of the West Pit from what will eventually conform to the Taylor Ditch. The area is being excavated and spoil is being transported as additional backfill for the West Pit.

The evening of 9/28, slumping had occurred within the backfill and regrade area of the West Pit. The area is approximately midway from east to west within the West Pit highwall backfill. At the time of the inspection, Colowyo was assessing and monitoring the area before beginning work on the slope. During the remaining inspection, no additional movement had occurred.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 2

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1



Approximate slump outline.

#### EXCESS SPOIL and DEVELOPMENT WASTE – Rule 4.09

Placement; Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization:

The West Taylor Fill was inspected from below from the West Taylor Pond. The face of the slope is well vegetated with no erosion observed. The East and West Fork Taylor Ditch was inspected in association to the West Taylor Fill. The ditches line both sides of the fill and were stable and well armored.

The Collom Temporary Spoil Pile continues construction as progression of the western portion of the Collom Pit continues. Overburden was actively being loaded and hauled to the spoil pile during the inspection. The approved disturbance boundary for the spoil pile was inspected with no issues. The area is well bermed in to contain spoil and delineate the approved boundary.

#### EXPLOSIVES – Rule 4.08

Distance Prohibitions 4.08.4; Warnings 4.08.4; Control of Adverse Effects 4.08.4:

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Blasting holes were observed along the southwest extent of the South Taylor Pit to assist in future mining in the pit. No blast occurred or was inspected during the inspection.

#### FISH and WILDLIFE – Rule 4.18:

Pronghorn and deer were observed sporadically throughout the site.

#### 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:

#### Ditches

Four ditches associated with the South Taylor Pit were inspected. This included East and West Fork Taylor Ditches, Section 28 Ditch and Section 29 Ditch. Both East and West Fork Taylor Ditches are partially constructed and only accept drainages from the West Taylor Fill currently. The ditches are heavily armored with rip rap with no issues. Both Section 28 and 29 Ditches receive runoff from disturbance associated with the crest of the southern highwall of the South Taylor Pit. The Section 28 ditch was walked along its entire length until it drops off into native drainages. All ditches inspected associated with the South Taylor Pit were stable with no issues.

Four ditches within the West Pit were inspected along with the associated stock tanks. This included the Taylor Ditch, Taylor Tributary Ditch, East Taylor Ditch and Buckskin Ditch. The Buckskin ditch has only a portion constructed at the moment and is located in the eastern portion of the West Pit. The entirety of Taylor Ditch and East Taylor Ditch were inspected. The Taylor Ditch is lined with rip rap for its entirety and no issues were observed. The East Taylor Ditch is mostly lined with rip rap with a portion that is a vegetated channel just above stock tank ETD1. ETD1 has received maintenance in 2021 which added an additional discharge point with rip rap. No issues were observed the ditch or associated stock tank. The Taylor Tributary Ditch was inspected from below along the Taylor Tributary Ditch. The entire reach of the Taylor Trib. can be inspected and no issues were observed.

All remaining ditches within East Pit were inspected along with their associated stock tanks. This includes the Final East Pit Ditch, North Tributary, East Pit Ditch, Prospect Ditch and the Streeter Ditch. Each ditch was stable at the time of the inspection. All ditches were either well vegetated or lined with rip rap. All associated tanks held water with no discharge into their associated ditch. Collection Ditches locatedNo issues observed.

Collom currently has four ditches constructed; D1, D2, D3, and D6. Each ditch was inspected. Ditches D1, D2 and D3 are all armored with rip rap while D6 is approved as a bare channel. No erosion or issues were observed.

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Final East Pit Ditch.



Taylor Ditch.

### Ponds

The West Taylor Pond located below the West Taylor Fill held water at the time of the inspection. The majority of the water received at the West Taylor Pond comes from water intercepted by the underdrain of the fill. The pond embankment was well vegetated and stable. The East Taylor Pond was also discharging. The majority of the water contributing to the pond comes from a spoil spring located just above the pond. The water from the spring is collected by a french drain and directed to a flume where the amount of water is measured prior to reaching the pond. The West Pit Pond and Section 28 Pond were also inspected. Both ponds were dry with no issues.

Ponds associated with the East Pit are Streeter Pond and Prospect Pond. The Streeter Pond receives runoff associated with the Streeter Ditch. The pond held water and was discharging at the time of the inspection. The embankment was stable and well vegetated. The Prospect Pond receives runoff from the Final East Pit Ditch, North Trib. East Pit Ditch and Prospect Ditch. The Prospect Pond held water but was not discharging at the time of the inspection. The pond was being cleaned at the time of the inspection. Sediment was being excavated from the pond and being transported to the South Taylor Pit. No issues were observed.

Collom ponds Section 25, Section 26, Section 36, Middle and Sidehill were inspected. Section 36, Section 25 and Middle Pond run in series with each other and collect runoff from the eastern portion of disturbance from the Collom Pit. Each of these ponds held minimal water with no discharge. Section 25 Pond has received maintenance on the primary spillway. The maintenance was completed prior to the inspection and water levels have not reached to the elevation of the spillway. The Sidehill and Section 26 ponds run in series with each other as well and receive runoff from the western portion of the Collom Pit. Both ponds held water but the Sidehill was minimal. All Collom Ponds were stable and no issues were observed.

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Prospect Pond.



Section 25 Pond.

**GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE:**

Highwall mining operations continue in the Collom Gulch. Current activities are west within the drainage.

**OTHER (SPECIFY):**

The evening of September 28th, a fire started north of the intersection of Haul Road A and the Collom Haul Road. The fire was contained with fire lines and put out. The Bureau of Land Management inspected the burn area in which the fire occurred and concluded a bird strike at the powerline started the fire and was not mine related. Colowyo stated that a revision would be provided in the future documenting the extent of the fire.



Burn area.

**RECLAMATION SUCCESS - Rule 4.15, Rule 3:**

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Reclamation parcel ST001 was inspected. ST001 is located just east of the South Taylor Pit and was reclaimed in 2011. This area recently received cross ripping for additional erosion control for this area. No signs of erosion was observed and the ST001 remains stable. No issues were observed.



ST001 parcel.

#### SIGNS AND MARKERS – Rule 4.02:

Mine identification signs were observed along the permit boundary. All information for compliance were observed.

Topsoil pile markers were observed at each topsoil pile inspected.

#### TOPSOIL – Rule 4.06

Removal 4.06.2; Substitute Materials 4.06.4(4); Storage and Protection 4.06.3; Redistribution 4.06.4:

Topsoil was actively being spread at the West Pit reclamation.

Topsoil Pile 26 A was inspected. 26A is located north of the Collom Spoil Pile. Topsoil stripping activities from the Collom Gulch has added to the pile in the previous months. The currently approved topsoil stripping activities have concluded and the pile is no longer receiving additional topsoil. At the time of the inspection, the additional topsoil to Pile 26A and is being planned to be shaped and seeded.

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Pile 26A.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 2

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1



**ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE**

No enforcement actions were initiated as a result of this inspection, nor are any pending.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 2

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1

**AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS****PERMIT RECORDS**

DRMS Permit	Exp. 11/5/22
Permit Application w/Revisions	Ok
Findings Document	RN-07
Insurance Certificate	8/1/23
Bond Document	Ok
Phased Bond Release	SL-21
Documents/Findings	
Air Emission Permits	95MF1040/16MF1324F
County Special Use Permits	SUP08-10 & C-05-05
UG Mining Landowner Notification	N/A
Subsidence Monitoring Reports	N/A
Subsidence Monitoring Data	N/A
Rill & Gully Survey	2021
Vegetation Monitoring Data	2021 ARR
Specific Variance Approvals	Ok
Annual Reclamation Reports	2021
Midterm Review Documents	MT-08
DRMS/OSM Inspection Reports/Enforcement Actions (3 Years)	Thru Aug. '22
Transfers/Succession of Operator	Ok
Temporary Cessation Notification	N/A
Reclamation Cost Estimate	MT-08
<b>CERTIFICATIONS</b>	
Pond Certifications	Ok
Annual Certifications for Impoundments	Ok
Fill Certifications for Excess Spoil or Underground Development Waste	Ok
• Quarterly Inspections	Thru 3 <sup>rd</sup> Qrt '22
• Compaction Testing	N/A
• Final Certification	N/A
Coal Processing Waste Banks	N/A
Haul Road Certifications	Ok
Access Road Certifications	Ok

**HYDROLOGIC RECORDS**

NPDES Permit	CO 0045161
NPDES Records	Thru 3 <sup>rd</sup> Qrt '22
Stormwater Management Plan	Ok
SPCC Plan	Ok
MSHA Pond Inspections	N/A
State Engineer's Pond Inspection	N/A
Quarterly Pond Inspections	Thru 3 <sup>rd</sup> Qrt '22
Annual Hydrology Reports	2021
• Ground Water Monitoring	Ok
• Surface Water Monitoring	Ok
• Spring & Seep Monitoring	No
• Mine Water Discharge Monitoring	N/A
• Mine Inflow Study	N/A
• Water Consumption Records	Ok
Well Permits	Ok

**BLASTING RECORDS**

Blasting Publication	2022
Blasting Records (3 years)	Thru Sept. '22
ATFE Explosives Permit	Ok
Blasting Variances	N/A
Pre-Blast Surveys	Ok

**ADDITIONAL RECORDS (specify)**


**COMMENTS:**


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