




PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1981-012 Mine Name: New Elk Mine Operator: New Elk Coal Company, LLC Operator Address: Mr. Mark Gray 12250 Highway 12 Weston, CO 81091	County: Las Animas Operation Type: Underground Permit Status: Active Ownership: Private
	Operator Representative Present: Nick Mason
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: September 28, 2022 Inspection Start Time: 08:00 Inspection End Date: October 28, 2022 Inspection End Time: 13:00		Inspection Type: Coal Partial Inspection Inspection Reason: Normal I&E Program Weather: Cloudy	
Joint Inspection Agency: None		Joint Inspection Contacts:	
Post Inspection Agency: None		Post Inspection Contacts:	
Inspector(s): Brock Bowles	Inspector's Signature: 		Signature Date: October 11, 2022

Inspection Topic Summary

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

N - Air Resource Protection

NA - Availability of Records

NA - Backfill & Grading

N - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

N - Explosives

N - Fish & Wildlife

R - Hydrologic Balance

R - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Other

R - Processing Waste

R - Roads

N - Reclamation Success

N - Revegetation

N - Subsidence

N - Slides and Other Damage

N - Support Facilities On-site

N - Signs and Markers

N - Support Facilities Not On-site

N - Special Categories Of Mining

N - Topsoil

COMMENTS

This partial inspection was conducted by Brock Bowles of the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division). Nick Mason of the New Elk Mine was present for the entire inspection. The weather was sunny in the morning and turned to isolated rainshowers by late morning. The temp was warm and the ground condition were damp.

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:

The flume at the east end of the clean water diversion ditch D26 was free of debris and appeared to be stable. The box at the bottom of the flume contained debris that needs to be removed (photo 1). Culvert C48 connecting the box and Ditch D26 needs to be cleaned (photo 2). Culvert C46 connecting ditches D24 and D24E needs to be cleaned (photo 3). Ditch D24 on the east end of the clean coal storage pile needs to be cleaned (photo 4). A dense stand of willows are impeding the flow of water.

The silt fences in ditch D58, along the haul road going east, were in good condition. The east end of ditch D26 (clean water diversion) where it drains into Discharge No 10, the culvert is clogged and needs cleaning (photo 5). This culvert is about 24" diameter and is not labeled on Map 13. The culvert going under the haul road at Discharge No 10 contains some sediment and needs to be cleaned (photo 6). This culvert is about 36" diameter and is not labeled on Map 13.

Culvert C5 was clean and free of obstructions.

Pond 4 contained a small amount of water in the southeast corner. Most of the pond contained dense vegetation. The primary and emergency outfalls were free of obstructions.

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Pond 6 contained water and the embankment appeared to be stable.

Ponds 7 and 8 (photo 7) contained water and were not discharging. The embankments of both ponds appeared stable. The primary and emergency spillways were clear of obstructions.

The check dams on top of the DWDA #2 were in good condition. Ditch D14 along the southern side of the pile was clear of obstructions and the eastern end of the ditch was recently cleaned. The berm of the sediment basin on the east end of the pile needs to be repaired. The southern berm needs to be have the side slopes graded to about 3h:1v and be compacted. Currently, the top of the berm has been compacted but not the sides (photo 8). This is not a stable condition. On the east side of culvert C13, a small gully has formed on the outside of the berm (photo 9). This is a sign of instability and that water was flowing over the top of the berm rather than through the culvert. This section of the berm needs to be repaired and compacted.

The catch basin in the drainage above containment pond 5 on the east side of the conveyor needs to be cleaned (photo 10).

GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE:

The portal to the Allen Mine was secured with a gate and the gate was locked.

Coal was being stacked at the loadout. Trucks were hauling coal in while a bulldozer was positioning the coal around the conveyor belt (photo 11). The coal debris was contained within the disturbed area.

PROCESSING WASTE/COAL MINE WASTE PILES – Rule 4.10 and 4.11

Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization; Placement:

Piles of waste were drying on the western side of the Refuse Disposal Area. A bulldozer was knocking down drier piles on the northern section of the RDA.

Culvert C18 and the sediment trap on the west side of the RDA needs to be cleaned (photo 12).

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PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1 – Box at bottom of Ditch D26 flume



Photo 2 – Culvert C48 outlet side

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Photo 3 – Culvert C46 outlet side



Photo 4 – Willows are impeding ditch flow

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Photo 5 – Clean water culvert needs cleaning



Photo 6 – Culvert at Discharge 10 under haul road

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Photo 7 – Pond 8



Photo 8 – Sediment basin berm needs sides sloped and compacted

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Photo 9 – Gullies forming on sediment basin berm



Photo 10 – Catch basin on east side of conveyor above containment 5 pond

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Photo 11 – Coal being stacked at the loadout



Photo 12 – Sediment trap on the RDA needs cleaning

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