

shown on Map 3. When mining, the Blue Seam mining will proceed east to near the permit boundary and have room and pillar sections developed to the South. The current approved permit area for the New Elk Mine is 4,213.2 acres with the approval of TR72, TR76, and PR-6 seeks to increase the permit area by 843.3 acres for a total permit area of 5,056.5 acres. The affected area within PR-6 is 219.1 acres as shown on Map 3. Long-term mine plans are shown on Figure 2. Life of mine acreage as shown on Figure 2 totals approximately 19,050 acres. Future revisions to the permit may propose mining in the Maxwell Seam.

2.05.3 Operation Plan-Permit Area

The planned underground workings are shown on Map 3. The generalized stratigraphy of the Allen, Apache and Blue Seams are shown on Figure 1. The mine was temporarily closed and sealed in 1989. Dewatering ceased and the lower areas of the mine were gradually flooded. The mine began production in 2010 again and added the Bates Portals. In 2014 the Allen Portals were sealed and the Bates Portals temporarily sealed.

In early 2021, NECC began production in the Blue Seam from the Bates Portals. The planned development of mains and panels will occur as shown on Map 3. Two sets of seven to nine entry sections are planned. Both the east mains and first south panel will advance towards the permit boundary. The first south panel will have subpanels turned south with rooms turned running east or west. No secondary mining is planned throughout the project. No future mining is planned for the current permit term in the Allen or Apache Seams and revised mine plans will be submitted for approval if mining is proposed for these seams.

Production estimates are dependent on demand and system capacity and may be adjusted to economic conditions in the coal industry. In the early years, coal will be trucked to the Jansen Yard load out for transfer to rail. Clean coal production greater than 1 million tons annually is expected to facilitate re-establishing rail transportation to the mine site.

(1) Production, Methods and Equipment