



STATE OF
COLORADO

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

Lorencito Canyon Mine, C-1996-084, Inspection Report

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

Fri, Oct 14, 2022 at 3:05 PM

To: Nick Mason <nmason@newelkcoal.com>

Hello Nick,

Please see the attached inspection report.

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

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INSP-REPORTC_C1996084_JLE_10142022023224.pdf
635K



PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1996-084 Mine Name: Lorencito Canyon Mine Operator: New Elk Coal Company, LLC Operator Address: Mr. Mark Gray 12250 Highway 12 Weston, CO 81091	County: Las Animas Operation Type: Surface Permit Status: Permanent Cessation Ownership: Private
	Operator Representative Present: Nick Mason
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) 	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: October 11, 2022 Inspection Start Time: 10:30 Inspection End Date: October 11, 2022 Inspection End Time: 12:00	Inspection Type: Coal Partial Inspection Inspection Reason: Normal I&E Program Weather: Clear
Joint Inspection Agency: None	Joint Inspection Contacts: None
Post Inspection Agency: None	Post Inspection Contacts: None
Inspector(s): Jared Ebert	Inspector's Signature:  Signature Date: 10/14/2022

Inspection Topic Summary

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

N - Air Resource Protection

N - Roads

N - Availability of Records

N - Reclamation Success

N - Backfill & Grading

R - Revegetation

R - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

N - Subsidence

N - Explosives

N - Slides and Other Damage

N - Fish & Wildlife

N - Support Facilities On-site

R - Hydrologic Balance

N - Signs and Markers

N - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Support Facilities Not On-site

N - Other

N - Special Categories Of Mining

N - Processing Waste

N - Topsoil

COMMENTS

This was a monitoring inspection of the Lorencito Canyon Mine, Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (DRMS or Division) permit number C-1996-084, operated by New Elk Coal Company, LLC (NECC). I, Jared Ebert with DRMS conducted the inspection and Nick Mason with NECC accompanied me during the inspection.

Current permitting actions:

- Permit Renewal No. 5 (RN5) – The decision date for RN5 is October 31, 2022. DRMS issued an adequacy review letter on June 28, 2022 and NECC has not responded to the adequacy review letter.

EXCESS SPOIL and DEVELOPMENT WASTE – Rule 4.09

Placement; Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization:

Fill 007 was observed. No signs of instability or structural weakness was observed. The face of the fill is stable and vegetated. A small rill has formed near where ditch D6 discharges into ditch D74 on the eastern side of the D74 on the face of the fill. NECC should continue to monitor this rill and take corrective action should it continue to erode.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 3

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1



Figure 1. Fill 007 from west looking northeast.

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:

Pond 006 was holding water but was not discharging at the time of the inspection. The pond embankment appeared stable and the primary and emergency spillway was clear and functional.

Pond 007 was holding a small puddle of water but it was not discharging at the time of the inspection. The pond embankment appeared stable and the primary and emergency spillway was clear and functional.

Ditch D74 and D72, the armored channels on the west and east side of the Fill 007 was walked. These channels are armored with rock and appeared stable and functional.

REVEGETATION – Rule 4.15

Vegetative Cover; Timing:

The steep slope above Pond 006 on the northwest side of the access road was observed. NECC has constructed a ditch at the top of the slope at the edge of the affected land. This area has sparse vegetation established in places and significant rills and gullies were observed. NECC has attempted to stabilize this area in the past using brush, and the installation of straw waddles perpendicular to the slope. NECC is exploring methods of stabilizing this area in the future.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 3

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1



Figure 2. Slope above Pond 006

DOCUMENTS RECEIVED - None

OTHER (SPECIFY) - None

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: 3

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1