




PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1981-008 Mine Name: New Horizon Mine Operator: Elk Ridge Mining and Reclamation, LLC Operator Address: Mr Tony Tennyson P.O. Box 628 27646 West 5th Avenue Nucla, CO 81424	County: Montrose Operation Type: Surface Permit Status: Active Ownership: Private
	Operator Representative Present: Mindy Sickels
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: November 9, 2022 Inspection Start Time: 12:00 Inspection End Date: November 9, 2022 Inspection End Time: 13:45		Inspection Type: Coal Complete Inspection Inspection Reason: Normal I&E Program Weather: Windy	
Joint Inspection Agency: None		Joint Inspection Contacts:	
Post Inspection Agency: None		Post Inspection Contacts:	
Inspector(s): Janet Binns	Inspector's Signature:  Signature Date:		

Inspection Topic Summary

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

R - Air Resource Protection**Y** - Roads**R** - Availability of Records**Y** - Reclamation Success**R** - Backfill & Grading**R** - Revegetation**NA** - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste**NA** - Subsidence**NA** - Explosives**Y** - Slides and Other Damage**R** - Fish & Wildlife**R** - Support Facilities On-site**R** - Hydrologic Balance**Y** - Signs and Markers**Y** - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan**NA** - Support Facilities Not On-site**NA** - Other**NA** - Special Categories Of Mining**NA** - Processing Waste**R** - Topsoil**COMMENTS**

This was a complete inspection conducted by Janet Binns of CDRMS. Mindy Sickels of Elk Ridge Mining and Reclamation accompanied the inspection and represented the operator. The weather was cloudy and extremely windy. A winter storm was howling in from the west.

The weather turned to a hard rain at the end of the inspection.

AIR RESOURCE PROTECTION – Rule 4.17:

Wind gusts were quite strong. But the reclaimed lands, topsoil and bench 1 stockpiles were not blowing dust. The site was quite stable and not contributing excessive dust under the high wind conditions.

AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS – Rule 5.02.4(1):

Records are stored in the main office building. Records have been maintained. The operator had the liability bond document for New Horizon North in the New Horizon Mine records notebook. ERMN needs to update this to reflect the current liability bond pertaining to C1981008.

FISH and WILDLIFE – Rule 4.18:

A flock of mallard ducks flew up from pond 13 as we approached. Pond 13 was slightly protected from the wind. The baffles and other sediment control structure did not appear to limit the ducks use of the pond.

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; Impoundments 4.05.6, 4.05.9; Stream Buffer Zones 4.05.18:

During the inspection portions of the mine site were damp. Mindy noted that the area had received some precipitation recently. SP2 pond was holding a shallow pool of water well below the discharge elevation. The inslopes were in good condition with the vegetation beginning to fill in. No concerns were noted with this stock tank.

Pond 13 was accessible. Mindy thought the inflow screen was due for a clean out soon. She estimated that it gets

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cleaned approximately once per month. The inflow rate was lower than the summer flow as irrigation water has been turned off for a while. Inflows were 285 gpm and 286 gpm= 571gpm on the two inflow pipe gauges. The baffles in the pond look secure and appear to be functioning.

Pond 15 had a damp puddle in the bottom. No concerns were noted with this pond. The collection ditch to Pond 15 looked to be in good shape as well.

Pond 12 was visited and was holding a steady pool of water covering the bottom of the pond. The water elevation was several feet below the discharge elevation, and there was no evidence that the pond had discharged previously. The pond inslopes were well vegetated. No concerns were noted with this pond.

Pond 18 was holding a shallow pool of water at the southern end of the pond. The water elevation was feet below the discharge elevation. No discharge from this pond had occurred.

Pond 16 was dry, with no concerns with this pond.

REVEGETATION – Rule 4.15

Vegetative Cover; Timing:

The Morgan property Irrigated Cropland was viewed for the hill on the north side of BB road. The IC1 field has been cut, hay bales removed and is still green. No obvious concerns were noted at this time. The Irrigated pasture Lloyd field was cut, still green and had no obvious concerns that were observed.

SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

The facilities area is clean and tidy. ERMR continues to get rid of unused supplies and equipment. Nothing was blowing around in the wind storm. All petroleum products were properly stored. There were no concerns at the facilities area.

TOPSOIL – Rule 4.06

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

The topsoil stockpile were well signed, ring ditches appeared intact. Although topsoil stockpile 12 still exhibits thin vegetative cover, the pile is stable, wasn't blowing with the windstorm, and did not show pronounced evidence of rilling or movement of the resource from runoff.

Topsoil stockpile footprint E still exhibits dry vegetation from this summer. The reclaimed pile is beginning to fill in with permanent vegetation. There was no evidence of rilling, gullies or soil blowing. The area appeared stable.

DOCUMENTS RECEIVED NA

OTHER (SPECIFY) NA

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

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

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PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: SP2



Photo 2: Pond 13 inflow



Photo 3: Pond 15



Photo 4: Pond 12



Photo 5: Irrigated Cropland across BB road



Photo 6: Pond 18

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Photo 7: Topsoil stockpile E footprint

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AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS C1981-008**PERMIT RECORDS**

DRMS Permit	X – exp 5/26/2023
Permit Application w/Revisions	X
Findings Document	X – RN7
Insurance Certificate	X – 8/1/2023
Bond Document	X
Phased Bond Release Documents/Findings	X – SL25 under review
Air Emission Permits	X 88MO234F
County Special Use Permits	X SU-99-0834
UG Mining Landowner Notification	NA
Subsidence Monitoring Reports	NA
Subsidence Monitoring Data	NA
Rill & Gully Survey	NA
Vegetation Monitoring Data	SL appl.
Specific Variance Approvals	NA
Annual Reclamation Reports	X – 2020
Midterm Review Documents	X – MT7
DRMS/OSM Inspection Reports/Enforcement Actions (3 Years)	X – in Laserfiche & through 10/27/22
Transfers/Succession of Operator	X SO-2 10/3/2016
Temporary Cessation Notification	NA
Reclamation Cost Estimate	X RN7
CERTIFICATIONS	
Pond Certifications	X 2 nd ¼ 2022
Annual Certifications for Impoundments	X 5/21/2021
Fill Certifications for Excess Spoil or Underground Development Waste	NA
• Quarterly Inspections	NA
• Compaction Testing	NA
• Final Certification	NA
Coal Processing Waste Banks	NA
Haul Road Certifications	X
Access Road Certifications	NA

COMMENTS:

*1 Applied for CDPS renewal on 3/9/2021. *2 Need 3rd ¼ 2022 Pond Inspection reports filed
 Need to file SL24 Findings, NPDES DMR submitted via laserfiche Please file Liability bond for Permit C1981008
 end of report

HYDROLOGIC RECORDS

NPDES Permit	X – exp. 3/31/2021 *1
NPDES Records	X main office and online & 7/2022
Stormwater Management Plan	X 3/5/2019
SPCC Plan	NA
MSHA Pond Inspections	NA
State Engineer's Pond Inspection Quarterly Pond Inspections	NA
Annual Hydrology Reports	Thru 1 st ¼ 2022
• Ground Water Monitoring	X -12/2021
• Surface Water Monitoring	X
• Spring & Seep Monitoring	X
• Mine Water Discharge Monitoring	X
• Mine Inflow Study	NA
• Water Consumption Records	X
Well Permits	X

BLASTING RECORDS

	NA
Blasting Publication	
Blasting Records (3 years)	X
ATFE Explosives Permit	NA
Blasting Variances	NA
Pre-Blast Surveys	X

ADDITIONAL RECORDS (specify)

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