

PERMIT INFORMATION

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

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: April 20, 2023 Inspection Start Time: 07:30 Inspection End Date: April 20, 2023 Inspection End Time: 13:00		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): Zach Trujillo	Inspector's Signature: 		Signature Date: 4/28/23

Inspection Topic Summary

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

N - Air Resource Protection
N - Availability of Records
R - Backfill & Grading
R - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste
N - Explosives
Y - Fish & Wildlife
R - Hydrologic Balance
R - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan
N - Other
N - Processing Waste

Y - Roads
R - Reclamation Success
R - Revegetation
N - Subsidence
N - Slides and Other Damage
Y - Support Facilities On-site
Y - Signs and Markers
N - Support Facilities Not On-site
N - Special Categories Of Mining
Y - Topsoil

COMMENTS

This was a partial inspection of the Colowyo Mine conducted by Zach Trujillo of Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (DRMS) on April 20, 2023. Tom Fry representing Colowyo Coal Company (Colowyo) accompanied the inspection. The weather for inspection was clear with snow covered and muddy ground conditions. High temperatures during the inspection were around 45 degrees. Due to ground conditions, access to portions of the site were inaccessible.

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 continues in the South Taylor Pit. Spoil from the South Taylor Temporary Excess Spoil Pile. Spoil is being hauled to the eastern portion of the South Taylor Pit where it is being dumped. No active spoil placement was occurring during the inspection however grading was observed.

EXCESS SPOIL and DEVELOPMENT WASTE – Rule 4.09

Placement; Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization:

Truck and shovel operations were occurring in the Collom Pit. Spoil was being transported to the eastern side of the Collom Spoil Pile where it was being staged for spreading.



Truck and shovel operations at Collom Pit.

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:

Reach 3 of the Final East Pit Ditch was inspected from above. The inspector attempted to access the ditch by foot however due to snow depths along with rapid snow melt, the area was muddy and difficult to traverse. As noted, the ditch was observed from above and only Reach 3 could be inspected. This portion of the Final East Pit Ditch was snow covered but appeared stable and no issues could be observed.



Reach 3 of Final East Pit Ditch.

The Prospect and Streeter Ponds were inspected. These ponds are located along the Highway 13 corridor and receive surface runoff associated with the East Pit. Both ponds held water and were discharging during the inspection. As noted in previous inspections, the Prospect Pond was in the process of being cleaned. A portion of sediment has staged along the inner embankment of the pond for removal however, due to weather conditions, this has been postponed. The primary spillway associated with the Prospect Pond had debris such as sticks and dead vegetation frozen along the top of the trash rack. To ensure the spillway is fully functional, the debris will need to be removed from the top of the trash rack and this has been noted as a maintenance item. The mine representative stated the debris would be removed from the spillway. Both ponds were stable at the time of the inspection with no major issues observed.



Debris froze on trash rack of Prospect Pond spillway.

The West Pit pond was inspected. The West Pit pond is the lower pond that receives drainage from a portion of the West Pit located along the Taylor Creek Drainage. This pond held water with no discharge and was stable.

Section 36, Middle and Section 25 Ponds were inspected. These ponds are located near the Collom Pit and receive surface runoff from the Collom Pit and associated facilities. All three ponds were discharging during the time of the inspection. No issues were observed.

GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE:

The dragline was being transported to the Collom Pit at the time of the inspection. The dragline was being staged near the Collom Pit to assist with backfill at the Collom Pit for contemporaneous reclamation.



Dragline transport.

Highwall mining operations were observed in the South Taylor Pit. The operation was along the southern extent of the western highwall moving in the southern direction. Previously mined entries have been backfilled as required per the Rules.



Highwall mining operation at South Taylor Pit.

The Little Collom Gulch area was inspected. This area has been previously mined using the highwall miner. Backfill was used to create benches along the eastern slope of the drainage to allow for the highwall miner to reach upper coal seams. It appears the fill used for these benches is now being transported to the western end of the drainage to allow for future highwall mining operations in the upper coal seams as well.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

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