



Inspection reports

1 message

**Bowles - DNR, Brock** <brock.bowles@state.co.us>  
To: Nick Mason <nmason@newelkcoal.com>

Mon, May 1, 2023 at 7:54 AM

Morning Nick,  
Here are the April 20 inspection reports for the New Elk (M-1981-012) and Lorencito (M-1996-084) Mines.  
Brock

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Brock Bowles  
Environmental Protection Specialist



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2 attachments

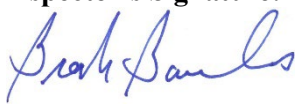
- INSP-REPORTC\_C1981012\_BFB\_04272023015829.pdf**  
1887K
- INSP-REPORTC\_C1996084\_BFB\_05012023073328.pdf**  
1765K



### PERMIT INFORMATION

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

### INSPECTION INFORMATION

<b>Inspection Start Date:</b> April 20, 2023 <b>Inspection Start Time:</b> 12:00 <b>Inspection End Date:</b> April 20, 2023 <b>Inspection End Time:</b> 14:00	<b>Inspection Type:</b> Coal Partial Inspection <b>Inspection Reason:</b> Normal I&E Program <b>Weather:</b> Clear
<b>Joint Inspection Agency:</b>  None	<b>Joint Inspection Contacts:</b>
<b>Post Inspection Agency:</b>  None	<b>Post Inspection Contacts:</b>
<b>Inspector(s):</b>  Brock Bowles	<b>Inspector's Signature:</b>  <b>Signature Date:</b>  May 1, 2023

**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 &amp; Grading

N - Revegetation

N - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

N - Subsidence

N - Explosives

N - Slides and Other Damage

N - Fish &amp; Wildlife

N - Support Facilities On-site

N - Hydrologic Balance

N - Signs and Markers

R - 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 partial inspection was conducted by Brock Bowles of the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division). Bill Roddy of the New Elk CC were present for the inspection. The weather was sunny, cool, a light breeze and the ground conditions were dry.

**GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE:**

The Division received the First Quarter 2023 Fill Inspection Report from NECC on March 28, 2023. The focus of this inspection was to verify the conditions documented in the report of Fills 7 and 9.

Fill 7 is in final reclamation. It has been graded, topsoiled and seeded. The lateral ditches were well vegetated and sloped appropriately to direct all surface runoff to the perimeter ditches (photo 1). The perimeter ditches were armored with large rocks and vegetation was growing between the rocks. The perimeter ditches appeared to be stable and no erosion was seen. A couple of rills were seen on the face of the fill. The rills appeared to be older as they were filling in with vegetation. This is a good sign that the vegetation is controlling erosion and stabilizing the soil (photo 2). No tension cracks were noted and no evidence of springs were seen. Fill #7 appears to be stable. In the section 'Documentation and Other Observations' of the March 28 fill report it states that the east armored down drain has a washed out spot that may need some repair. This spot was not observed during this inspection. DRMS will meet with the operator to locate this spot for evaluation.

Pond 7 did not contain water. The bottom of the pond and embankment were well vegetated (photo 3). There were no observed tension cracks or animal burrows on the embankment.

Fill 9 is in final reclamation. It has been graded, topsoiled and seeded. The lateral ditches were well vegetated and sloped appropriately to direct all surface runoff to the perimeter ditches. The perimeter ditches were armored with large rocks and vegetation was growing between the rocks (photo 4). The perimeter ditches appeared to be stable and no erosion was seen. The face of the fill was well vegetated and appears to be effectively controlling erosion (photo 5). No tension cracks were noted and no evidence of springs were seen. Fill #9 appears to be stable.

Pond 9 did not contain water.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 7

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 3

The 2023 Q1 Fill Inspection Report appears to be consistent with the site conditions.

**DOCUMENTS RECEIVED**

**OTHER (SPECIFY)**

**ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE**

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

**PHOTOGRAPHS**



Photo 1 – Lateral ditches on Fill 7

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Photo 2 – Old rills filling in and stabilized with vegetation



Photo 3 – Pond 7

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Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 3





Photo 4 – Fill 9 east perimeter ditch



Photo 5 – Vegetation on face of Fill 9

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Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 3