



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

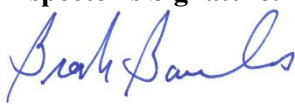
- INSP-REPORTC_C1981012_BFB_04272023015829.pdf**
1887K
- INSP-REPORTC_C1996084_BFB_05012023073328.pdf**
1765K



PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1981-012 Mine Name: New Elk Mine Operator: New Elk Coal Company, LLC Operator Address: Mr. Mark Gray 12250 Highway 12 Weston, CO 81091	County: Las Animas Operation Type: Underground Permit Status: Active Ownership: Private
	Operator Representative Present: Bill Stormes
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) 	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: April 20, 2023 Inspection Start Time: 08:00 Inspection End Date: April 20, 2023 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:
Post Inspection Agency: None	Post Inspection Contacts:
Inspector(s): Brock Bowles	Inspector's Signature:  Signature Date: 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 - Availability of Records
 N - Backfill & Grading
 N - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste
 N - Explosives
 N - Fish & Wildlife
 R - Hydrologic Balance
 N - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan
 N - Other
 R - Processing Waste

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

COMMENTS

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

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:

The raw coal storage area was inspected to follow up on the issues raised in the last inspection report.

-A snorkel had been installed on the elevated conveyor belt which delivers coal to the raw coal pile (photo1). The snorkel is a device that directs the falling coal onto the top of the pile. The snorkel is adjustable so it can be set to within a couple of feet of the top of the pile, reducing the amount of time the falling coal is exposed to wind. This greatly reduced the amount of coal dust being blown off the pile.

-Ditch D32 and Culvert C64 have been cleaned (photo 2).

-The dust that had blown off the pile has been cleaned up. The operator used a vacuum truck, hand tools and hand brooms to remove the coal dust from the stream buffer zone, among the rocks and around the willows. The areas where the coal dust had been removed were hydro seeded (photos 1 & 3).

-The operator has submitted a document outlining the BMPs for preventing coal dust from blowing beyond the raw coal stockpile. The document is attached to the end of this report.

-The berm shown on Map 13 has been reestablished under the coal refuse conveyor belt (photo 4). The berm prevents disturbed area water from directly draining to the stream buffer zone and river. The berm directs disturbed area water to Pond 7 for treatment before discharging.

-The willows have been removed from the outlet side of Culverts C34 and C46.

-The sumps along the water tank access road have been cleaned.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 7

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 3

Ponds 6 and 7 both contained a small amount of water. The embankments appeared to be stable.

PROCESSING WASTE/COAL MINE WASTE PILES – Rule 4.10 and 4.11

Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization; Placement:

The top of the RDA pile and the surrounding drainage ditch have been recontoured to promote positive drainage (photo 5). The standing water noted in the last report has been drained.

SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

The large liquid containers stored in the Portable Explosive and Chemical Storage Area have been temporarily addressed. The damaged containers have been put into a large metal bin which is acting as secondary containment (photo 6). The damaged containers have also been covered in plastic to prevent precipitation from entering and overfilling the containers. New containers, also known as totes, are on order. The material in the damaged totes will be pumped to the new totes, when they arrive. All the liquids in the storage area are proposed to be inventoried, disposed of or consumed.

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 – Snorkel on coal conveyor (arrow), hydro seeded stream buffer zone (right)

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Photo 2 - Ditch D32 and Culvert C64



Photo 3 – Clean up and hydro seeded areas

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Photo 4 – Berm re-established under refuse disposal belt



Photo 5 – Drain ditch on top of RDA

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Photo 6 – Damaged totes covered and put in secondary containment

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