



STATE OF
COLORADO

Ridley - DNR, Hunter <hunter.ridley@state.co.us>

Sage Creek Mine Inspection Report, C-2009-087

1 message

Ridley - DNR, Hunter <hunter.ridley@state.co.us>

Mon, May 8, 2023 at 3:40
PM

To: "Kawcak, Miranda" <mkawcak@peabodyenergy.com>

Miranda,

Please find attached the inspection report for the Peabody Sage Creek Mine, File No. C-2009-087 dated May 2, 2023. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Kind regards,
Hunter Ridley
Environmental Protection Specialist



COLORADO
Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety
Department of Natural Resources

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SageCreek_May_CC.pdf
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PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-2009-087 Mine Name: Peabody Sage Creek Mine Operator: Peabody Sage Creek Mining, LLC Operator Address: Ms Mirdanda Kawcak 29515 Routt County Road 27 Oak Creek, CO 80467	County: Routt Operation Type: Underground Permit Status: Temporary Cessation Ownership: Private Operator Representative Present: Miranda Kawcak
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) 	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: May 2, 2023 Inspection Start Time: 12:00 Inspection End Date: May 2, 2023 Inspection End Time: 13:00		Inspection Type: Coal Complete 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): Hunter Ridley	Inspector's Signature: <i>Hunter Ridley</i>		Signature Date: May 8, 2023

Inspection Topic Summary

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

N - Air Resource Protection

R - Availability of Records

N - Backfill & Grading

N - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

N - Explosives

N - Fish & Wildlife

R - Hydrologic Balance

R - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Other

N - Processing Waste

Y - Roads

N - Reclamation Success

N - Revegetation

N - Subsidence

N - Slides and Other Damage

N - Support Facilities On-site

R - Signs and Markers

N - Support Facilities Not On-site

N - Special Categories Of Mining

R - Topsoil

COMMENTS

This was a complete inspection of the Peabody Sage Creek Mine; DRMS Permit No. C-2009-087, operated by Peabody Sage Creek Mining, LLC. This inspection was conducted by Hunter Ridley with the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division). The Sage Creek Mine is an inactive non-producing mine currently in Temporary Cessation since 2017. TC representative Miranda Kawcak was present at the time of the inspection and at the records check at the Foidel Creek Mine. **Please address the Bold items below.**

Midterm No. 3 (MT3) was issued by the Division on February 16, 2023. There is a surety increase of \$219,891.00 associated with MT3. The operator stated they would satisfy this increase by requesting a financial warranty adjustment through the Division's minor revision (MR) process. As per the date of this inspection report, the Division has not yet received this MR request. **This MR request due date has been extended and is currently due to the Division no later than June 16, 2023.** If an MR is not received by June 16, 2023, the Division will issue this financial warranty increase through the Notice of Surety Increase (SI) process.

The operator stated that a Phase III release request revision would be coming this year to release undisturbed areas in the southern most area of the permit boundary.

AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS – Rule 5.02.4(1):

Records were checked at the mine office. See details at the end of report. Records can be made available to the public through paper or electronic copy. Currently, records located at the mine office are in both forms. However, in the event that the computer which holds the files is not accessible, e.g. the operator is not present to login an access records, Rule 5.02.4 would not be able to be followed. **Therefore, the Division requests that all records be made available in paper form.** Aside from inspection reports which must be kept for three years, all other reports such as DMRs, ARRs, AHR, pond inspections, etc. only need to be updated to the most current year. **Please also update the bolded / highlighted items marked 'update'.**

SIGNS AND MARKERS—Rule 4.02

Mine identification markers were observed throughout the site. The required phone number information is currently blocked off from signage (Photo 1). This was discussed with TC representative Miranda Kawcak. Please update the division when signage has been appropriately amended.

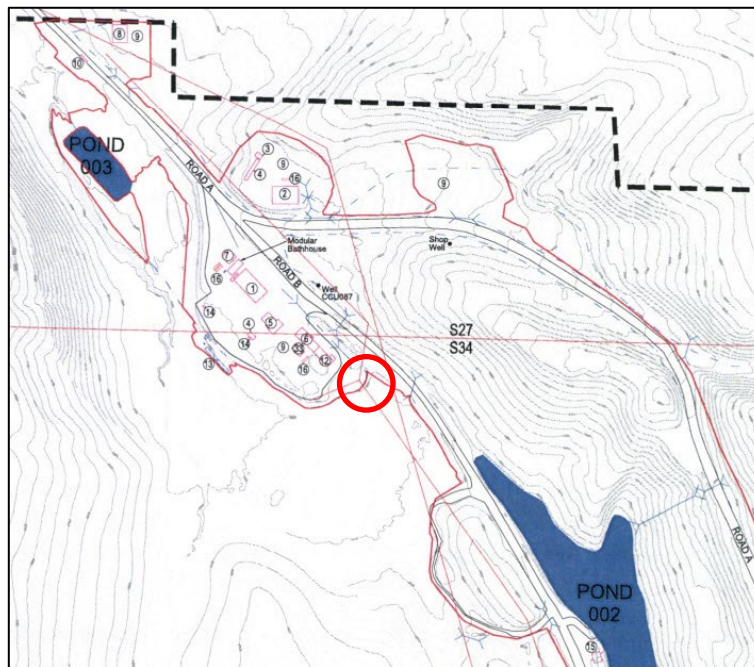
Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 0Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 4

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:

Due to recent heavy snowmelt, all ponds at the site were discharging at the time of inspection (Photos 5, 7, 10, and 11). NPDES #7, located by the site's main office buildings (Photo 3), was also discharging. Recent flooding events have also caused erosional damage to Road B and portal Road F (Photo 8). Repair of these erosional features is listed as an ongoing maintenance item.

Mine water and snowmelt was being continually pumped at the portal entrance (Photos 9 and 12).

The pipe located below Pond 002, in the previous vehicle wash bay area, was not noted to be leaking at the time of the inspection (Photo 14). Any leakage would report to the same discharge as Pond 002. The operator stated that this pipe is continually checked for maintenance and reinforced to avoid breakage and discharge. Location of pipe is shown on drainage map below.



SUPPORT FACILITIES – Rule 4.04:

As this site is in temporary cessation, many of the on-site support facilities are unused. This includes storage buildings and a water tank located along Road B (Photo 2) and various buildings in the same area seen in Photo 6.

TOPSOIL— Rule 4.06 Removal 4.06.2; Substitute Materials 4.06.4(4); Storage and Protection 4.06. 3; Redistribution 4.06.4:

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There is one large topsoil pile onsite located adjacent to the Pecoco pond (Photo 11). The pile appears stable, well vegetated and undisturbed.

GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE:

Ongoing maintenance issues from previous inspection:

- The ditch around the portal area needs to be cleared of cattail growth to maintain proper drainage in the area
- Road ditch from the upper tank to the warehouse needs to be repaired and reestablished (Road D, ditch RD-DI).
- Clean ditch across from transformers above portal at seep (photo 2 below)
- Repair erosional features across from upper tank adjacent to the road (top Road D on south side of road)
- Flume repair is needed on Little Grassy Creek as water is undercutting the flume (NPDES 2).
- Erosional features are present on various access roads that require repair (Road B, Road F).
- Additional disturbance markers are recommended.
- Trash screen at Pond 003 needs to be cleared.
- Monitor the pipe below Pond 002 for leakage or blowout.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

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

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: Mine sign located at site entrance.

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Photo 2: View SE of Road A and unused storage buildings and water tank.



Photo 3: View N of the site's office building and parking lots. NPDES Point 7 is located at this culvert and was discharging at the time of inspection.



Photo 4: View NW of the scale and scale house located at the entrance to the mine.



Photo 5: View SW of Pond 003, seasonal grazing occurs in the area surrounding this pond.

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Photo 6: View W of a recently collapsed part of the vehicle maintenance shop, caused by the winter seasons heavy snowfall. Cleanup is currently underway.



Photo 7: View SE of Pond 002, Grassy Creek connects with Pond 002. Area directly to the east is the old highwall from the previously permitted Seneca II mine.

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Photo 8: View W from Road B, recent flooding overtopped this road, causing small amounts of erosional damage to the road. See maintenance items.



Photo 9: View E of the portal area. Dewatering pumps are continually running to manage snowmelt and mine discharge.

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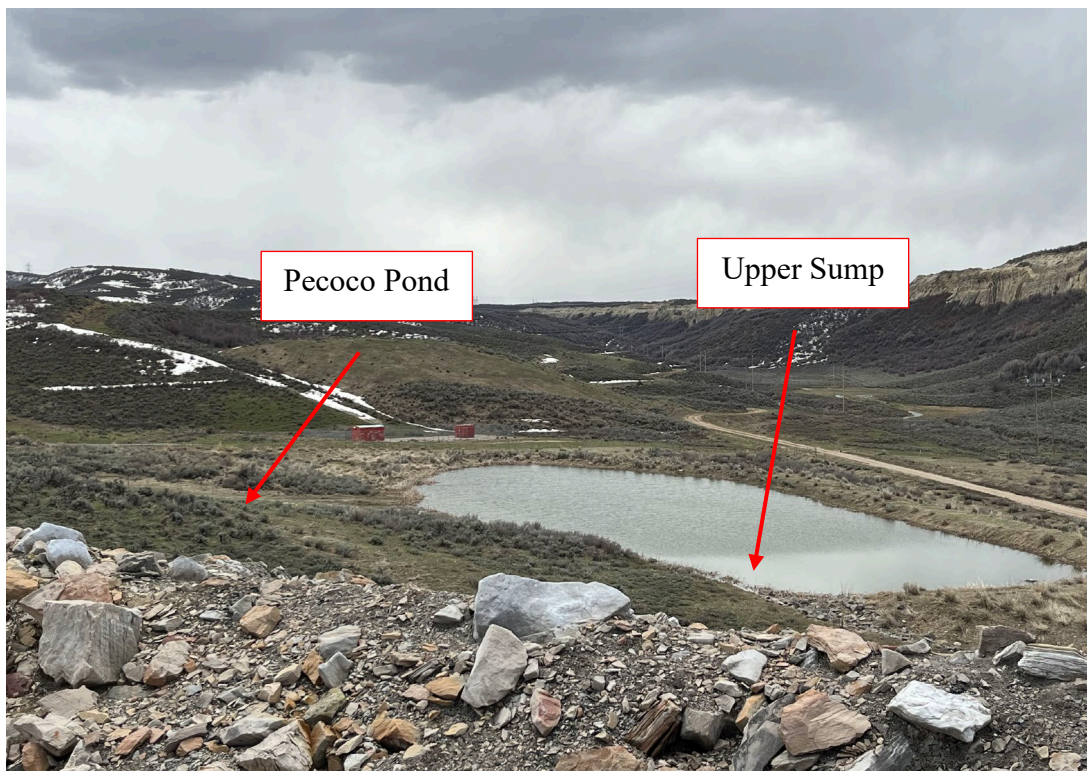


Photo 10: View S of the upper sump pond, directly north of Pecoco Pond.

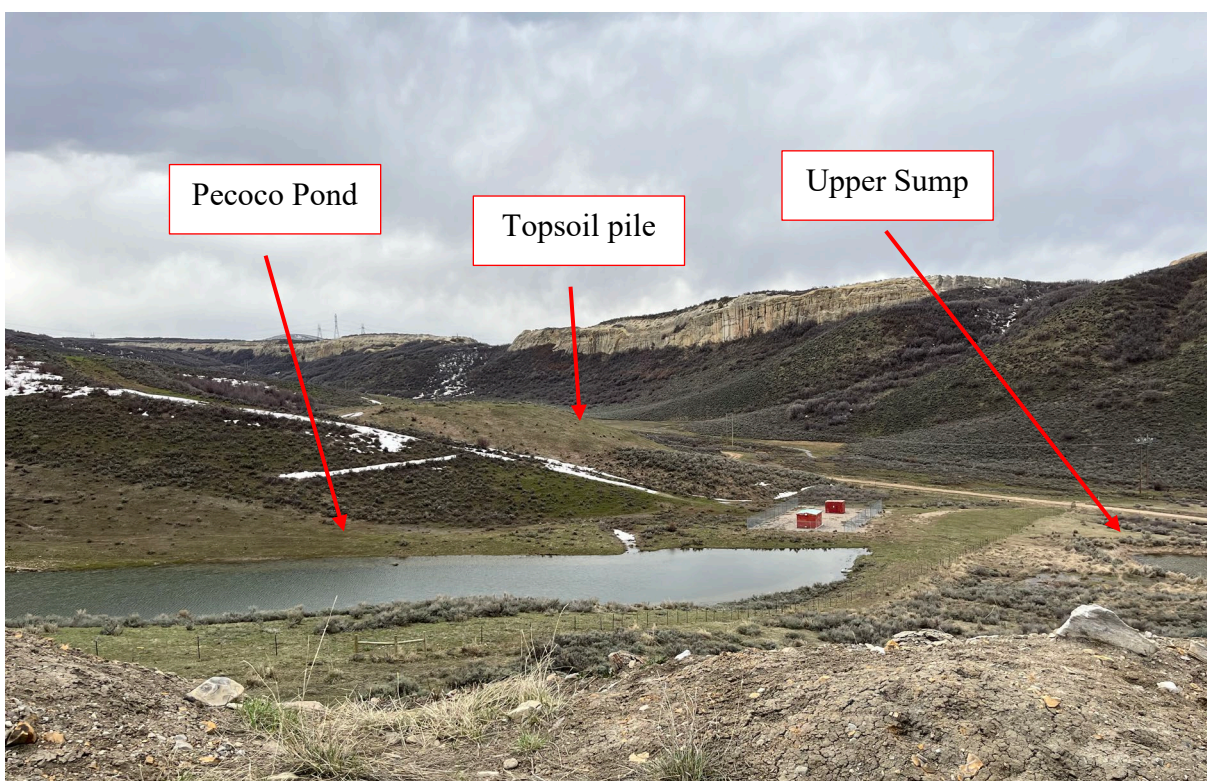


Photo 11: View S of Pecoco Pond, upper sump is to the north.

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Photo 12: View W, overview of portal area.



Photo 13: View N from Road A-1, Pond 002 and Road B can be seen in the background.

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Photo 14: Leaky pipe as noted in previous inspection reports. Efforts have been made to protect pipe from future blowouts.

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AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS**PERMIT RECORDS**

DRMS Permit	Exp 8/20/25
Permit Application w/Revisions	MR 27 - 19
Findings Document	RN2
Insurance Certificate	Exp 8/1/23
Bond Document	CS
Phased Bond Release	SL4
Documents/Findings	
Air Emission Permits	Issued 9/4/2012 (Aug 2017, APEN update Exp 2023)
County Special Use Permits	2/9/16 Exp 2026
UG Mining Landowner Notification	2/29/2011
Subsidence Monitoring Reports	2 & 3rd Q 2012 Update
Subsidence Monitoring Data	2 & 3rd Q 2012 Update
Rill & Gully Survey	June 2018
Vegetation Monitoring Data	2014
Specific Variance Approvals	NA
Annual Reclamation Reports	2019
Midterm Review Documents	Update with Feb 2023
DRMS/OSM Inspection Reports/Enforcement Actions (3 Years)	Oct 2020
Transfers/Succession of Operator	SO1
Temporary Cessation Notification	Jan 2017
Reclamation Cost Estimate	RN1
CERTIFICATIONS	
Pond Certifications	PAP Ex. 2
Annual Certifications for Impoundments	3 Q 2022
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	PAP
Access Road Certifications	PAP

HYDROLOGIC RECORDS

NPDES Permit	Exp Dec 2020 Update
NPDES Records	Online LF
Stormwater Management Plan	Dec 2013
SPCC Plan	Sept. 19, 2014
MSHA Pond Inspections	NA
State Engineer's Pond Inspection	3 Q 2022
Quarterly Pond Inspections	3 Q 2022
Annual Hydrology Reports	Online LF
• Ground Water Monitoring	AHR
• Surface Water Monitoring	AHR
• Spring & Seep Monitoring	AHR
• Mine Water Discharge Monitoring	NA
• Mine Inflow Study	NA
• Water Consumption Records	NE
Well Permits	Online LF

BLASTING RECORDS

Blasting Publication	NA
Blasting Records (3 years)	NA
ATFE Explosives Permit	Exp. 2019
Blasting Variances	NA
Pre-Blast Surveys	NA

**ADDITIONAL RECORDS
(specify)**

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