



STATE OF
COLORADO

Jesse - DNR, Todd <todd.jesse@state.co.us>

Deserado Mine, C-1981-018, April 2023 Partial Inspection Report

1 message

Jesse - DNR, Todd <todd.jesse@state.co.us>

Thu, May 11, 2023 at 5:40 PM

To: kblunt@deserado.com

Cc: Clayton Wein - DNR <clayton.wein@state.co.us>, DNR DRMS_CoalAdmin - DNR <dnr_drms_coal_admin@state.co.us>

Good afternoon Kurt,

Attached is the Division's report for the inspection for the Deserado Mine conducted April 26, 2023. Please note that maintenance items are identified in the report in Bold text. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,
Todd Jesse

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Environmental Protection Specialist
Minerals Program, Grand Junction Field Office
720-688-0626



2023-05-11_INSPECTION - C1981018.pdf

4163K



COLORADO


Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety

Department of Natural Resources

PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1981-018 Mine Name: Deserado Mine Operator: Blue Mountain Energy, Inc Operator Address: Mr Kurtis Blunt 3607 County Road 65 Rangely, CO, 81648	County: Moffat, Rio Blanco Operation Type: Underground Permit Status: Active Ownership: Private
	Operator Representative Present: Kurtis Blunt
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: April 26, 2023 Inspection Start Time: 10:00 Inspection End Date: April 26, 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: None	
Post Inspection Agency: None		Post Inspection Contacts: None	
Inspector(s): Todd Jesse	Inspector's Signature:  Signature Date:		

Inspection Topic Summary

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

N - Air Resource Protection

R - Roads

N - Availability of Records

R - Reclamation Success

N - Backfill & Grading

Y - Revegetation

R - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

Y - Subsidence

Y - Explosives

N - 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

N - Support Facilities Not On-site

N - Other

N - Special Categories Of Mining

R - Processing Waste

R - Topsoil

COMMENTS

This report documents the observations made by the Division during a monthly inspection of the Deserado Mine on April 26, 2023. The inspection was completed by Todd Jesse of the Division. Kurt Blunt represented Blue Mountain Energy during the inspection. The weather was mostly sunny with a temperature around 55 degrees F. The ground conditions were muddy because of recent storms and above average winter snow totals. Due to the soft ground conditions, some portions of the mine site were inaccessible during the inspection. Please note Maintenance Items are listed in this report in **Bold** text. Please provide the Division with photos of the maintenance items once they have been completed.

EXCESS SPOIL and DEVELOPMENT WASTE – Rule 4.09

Placement; Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization:

The Halandras Landfill (Photo 1) is located on the west side of County Road 65 (CR-65), north of the main facilities area. **The landfill has a small amount of debris that has blown out of the landfill and has landed in areas adjacent to the pit. Please return debris to the landfill.** There were no indications of offsite impacts or erosional features.

FISH and WILDLIFE – Rule 4.18:

A male and female pair of Mallards were seen on pond PP-2. A group of three Pronghorn were seen near the nitrogen plant. Pond RP-2/3 had a cacophony of frog vocalizations indicating that the pond supports a large number of these amphibians.

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 DP-1 pond and PP-2 pond are both within the facilities area of the mine site. DP-1 was discharging water (Photo 2). The embankments of the pond were covered with vegetation and there were no indications of instability or erosion. The outfall was free of obstructions. PP-2 (photo 3) was holding water during the inspection. No discharge was observed at PP-2. The embankment was stable with no erosional concerns identified.

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The Last Chance Pond (Photo 4) is part of the dewatering system that allows miners to work underground. The pond is part of a passive water treatment system that improves water quality before it is discharged into the environment. At the time of the inspection the pond was discharging water. The embankment of the pond is stable with no burrows or erosional concerns.

Ponds RP1, RP2/3, RP4, and RP5 are located in the refuse pile area of the permit. RP1 (Photo 5), RP2/3, RP4, and RP5 are all holding water, but no discharge was observed at any of these ponds. The embankments of these ponds are vegetated. No erosion, slumping or animal burrows were observed at any of the refuse pile ponds. However, there were a number of frogs in RP2/3.

The Rail Loop Sump and Pond are part of the hydrologic controls around the rail loop area. The sump was not holding water, but a small amount of water was seen dripping in and filtering into the ground. No erosion concerns were identified at the sump. The Rail Loop Pond (Photo 6) was not holding water. Signs of erosion are found along the northern embankment of the pond, but when compared to photos of previous inspections the erosional scar does seem stable and has not increased in size.

There are a couple culverts in the slot storage area and around the nitrogen plants. These culverts were observed to be partially filled with sediment. The culvert near the Nitrogen Plant (Photo 7) is especially clogged. **Please clean out the culverts and associated ditches or excess sediment. The current ground conditions were too soft to complete these items. The operator has the culverts on the list of items that require maintenance when ground conditions allow.**

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

Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization; Placement:

Refuse Pile RP-1 (Photo 8) has stable banks and no signs of erosion or slumping. Vegetation is well established and blends with surrounding undisturbed areas. Diversion ditches around the refuse pile are free of obstructions and convey water. The slopes of the pile appear stable with no erosional concerns identified.

ROADS – Rule 4.03

Construction 4.03.1(3)/4.03.2(3), Drainage 4.03.1(4)/4.03.2(4), Surfacing and Maintenance 4.03.1(5) and (6)/4.03.2(5) and (6), Reclamation 4.03.1(7)/4.03.2(7):

The haul road at the Deserado Mine was well maintained and dry. The road was stable with no erosional concerns. However, portions of the ditch are not completely dried after the snowmelt and recent rainstorms. Crews have begun to blade the road and ditch as part of the spring site cleanup in some areas (Photo 9). In other areas, the ditches are too soft and equipment sinks in the mud. As conditions continue to dry out the surface crews will continue to clean ditches and replace bales as needed.

RECLAMATION SUCCESS - Rule 4.15, Rule 3:

The Stanley Gordon Portals (Photo 10) are secured with a bat gate. Warning signs are attached to the gate to discourage unauthorized entry. Vegetation is well established and blends with surrounding vegetation. No signs of erosion or slumping was observed.

SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

The support facilities in the portal area became completely accessible as snow recently melted out and the ground is drying. The portal area support facilities are tidy and surface crews are continuing with spring cleaning

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as the snow melts. The Explosives Pad (Photo 11) has good housekeeping. No signs of erosion or settling on the pad. The Electric Substation (Photo 12) on the top bench of the portal facilities has good housekeeping. The electric area is secured with fencing that has warning signs. There is also a fire extinguisher that is readily accessible. Electric equipment appears in good working order and there are no indications of erosion. The roads to access the benches in the support facility are in good condition, but **some ditches (Photo 13) are partly filled in with sediment. Please clean facility/portals area ditches when ground conditions allow.**

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 D Portal topsoil pile (Photo 14) is located in the main facilities area. A topsoil marker was seen on top of the pile. The topsoil pile marker was a T-post covered with white PVC. The topsoil pile was covered in established vegetation. There were no indications of erosion or instability observed on the stockpile.

DOCUMENTS RECEIVED: None

OTHER (SPECIFY): None

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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: View to the northeast of landfill area. Small amount of trash outside pit.



Photo 2: View to the northwest of Pond DP-1 outlet discharging.

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Photo 3: View to the north of PP-2 embankment.



Photo 4: Last Chance Pond discharge

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Photo 5: Pond RP1 with water. View to the east



Photo 6: Erosion scar on Rail Loop Pond. View to the north.

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Photo 7: Plugged culvert near the Nitrogen Plant. View to the northeast



Photo 8: Refuse Pile RP1. View to the southwest

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Photo 9: View to the south. Ditch that has been pulled along haul road



Photo 10: View to the north of the Stanley Gordon Portal reclamation.

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Photo 11: View to the northeast of Explosives Pad



Photo 12: View to the east of electric substation.

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Photo 13: View to the southeast of ditch in facility area. Crews attempted to pull the ditch and sunk in the mud.



Photo 14: View to the south of the D Portal Topsoil Pile.

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AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS**PERMIT RECORDS**

DRMS Permit _____

Permit Application w/Revisions _____

Findings Document _____

Insurance Certificate _____

Bond Document _____

Phased Bond Release _____

Documents/Findings _____

Air Emission Permits _____

County Special Use Permits _____

UG Mining Landowner Notification _____

Subsidence Monitoring Reports _____

Subsidence Monitoring Data _____

Rill & Gully Survey _____

Vegetation Monitoring Data _____

Specific Variance Approvals _____

Annual Reclamation Reports _____

Midterm Review Documents _____

DRMS/OSM Inspection _____

Reports/Enforcement Actions (3 Years) _____

Transfers/Succession of Operator _____

Temporary Cessation Notification _____

Reclamation Cost Estimate _____

CERTIFICATIONS

Pond Certifications _____

Annual Certifications for Impoundments _____

Fill Certifications for Excess Spoil or Underground Development Waste _____

- Quarterly Inspections _____
- Compaction Testing _____
- Final Certification _____

Coal Processing Waste Banks _____

Haul Road Certifications _____

Access Road Certifications _____

HYDROLOGIC RECORDS

NPDES Permit _____

NPDES Records _____

Stormwater Management Plan _____

SPCC Plan _____

MSHA Pond Inspections _____

State Engineer's Pond Inspection _____

Quarterly Pond Inspections _____

Annual Hydrology Reports _____

- Ground Water Monitoring _____
- Surface Water Monitoring _____
- Spring & Seep Monitoring _____
- Mine Water Discharge Monitoring _____
- Mine Inflow Study _____
- Water Consumption Records _____

Well Permits _____

BLASTING RECORDS

Blasting Publication _____

Blasting Records (3 years) _____

ATFE Explosives Permit _____

Blasting Variances _____

Pre-Blast Surveys _____

ADDITIONAL RECORDS (specify)

COMMENTS:

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