


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 and Tony Tennyson
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: May 11, 2023 Inspection Start Time: 07:30 Inspection End Date: Inspection End Time:	Inspection Type: Coal Partial Inspection Inspection Reason: Normal I&E Program Weather: Raining	
Joint Inspection Agency: None	Joint Inspection Contacts:	
Post Inspection Agency: None	Post Inspection Contacts:	
Inspector(s): Zach Trujillo	Inspector's Signature: 	Signature Date: 5/18/23

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

R - Explosives

Y - Fish & Wildlife

R - Hydrologic Balance

R - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Other

N - Processing Waste

Y - Roads

Y - Reclamation Success

R - Revegetation

N - Subsidence

R - Slides and Other Damage

N - 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 and Tony Tennyson representing Colowyo Coal Company (Colowyo) attended or was present during the inspection. The weather for inspection was raining with muddy ground conditions. High temperatures during the inspection were around 45 degrees. Due to ground conditions and continued road maintenance from the previous winter snow, 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:

Primary backfill operations have been in the South Taylor Pit however no backfilling was occurring during the inspection.

EXCESS SPOIL and DEVELOPMENT WASTE – Rule 4.09

Placement; Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization:

The Collom Excess Spoil Pile was inspected. Spoil from truck/shovel operations was being transported and dumped along the upper bench of the spoil pile. The Collom Excess Spoil Pile is surrounded by a perimeter berm to ensure all spoil remains within the approved footprint. No issues were observed.



Shovel located within Collom Pit.

EXPLOSIVES – Rule 4.08

Distance Prohibitions 4.08.4; Warnings 4.08.4; Control of Adverse Effects 4.08.4:

Drilling for a future blast had occurred prior to the inspection and were being prepared during the inspection. The blast was going to occur in the previous highwall miner bench located within the Little Collom Gulch. The fill will be used for future benching to allow the highwall miner to reach upper coal seams located along the other side of the drainage.



Blast hole preparation at Little Collom Gulch.

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:

East Pit

The entirety of the Final East Pit Ditch (FEPD) and North Trib. East Pit Ditch (NTEPD) was inspected. Due to recent snow melt as well as raining conditions during the inspection. The FEPD was flowing with surface runoff. The FEPD is broken into three reaches separated two by stock ponds. Reach 2 and 3 of the FEPD were stable with no issues and the associated stock pond EP2 was full and discharging into Reach 2 from the spillway. Stock pond 1 held limited water as a trickle tube has been installed at a lower elevation to the primary spillway. The lower steeper portion of Reach 1 of the FEPD was inspected. This reach was damaged during a 2022 storm event. Maintenance on Reach 1 has not yet occurred due to winter and adverse ground conditions. Even with flowing conditions in the FEPD, not additional cutting can occur as the channel has reached bedrock. Flow from FEPD then reports to the South Collection Ditch which has been fully repaired and finally to the Prospect Pond. Repair work of the FEPD is planned for this coming spring/summer once ground conditions allow access for equipment. No issues were observed.

The NTEPD was stable with no surface water flow. Stock ponds associated with NTEPD held water with no discharge.

The Streeter and Prospect Pond were inspected. These ponds receive surface runoff associated with the East Pit. Both ponds held water and were discharging at the time of the inspection. Noted in the previous inspection, dead vegetation and debris was frozen along the primary spillway and was in need of maintenance. The debris had been removed and the primary spillway and was working properly. No issues were observed with either pond.



Reach 1 of FEPD.



Intersection of FEPD and South Collection Ditch



Prospect Pond primary spillway.

South Taylor Pit

Section 28 Pond which receives disturbed runoff from the southern crest of the South Taylor Pit. This pond held minimal water with no issues.

Collom Pit

Section 36, Section 25 and Middle Ponds were inspected. These ponds are associated with Collom Pit and run in series with each other. Each of these ponds held water with discharge. Each pond was stable, well vegetated with no issues observed.



Section 25 Pond.

Collom Temporary Facility Area

Ponds associated with the Collom temporary facility area were inspected. This included the Temporary Facility Pond and the Wilson Storage Pond. The Temporary Facility Pond was constructed to collect surface runoff from the temporary facility area which was built to assist operations during the Collom Haul Road construction. While the Wilson Storage Pond is adjacent to the facility area, it is used to store water for Collom operations. Both ponds were stable and no issues observed.

GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE:

The highwall miner operations continue within the South Taylor Pit. Progression is currently along the western end of the pit.

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):

Gravel and road maintenance was observed along the in-pit haul road to assist in the haul operations for spoil. Due to ground conditions, maintenance work and rough conditions caused by heavy equipment operations, access to the western portion of the Collom Pit was inaccessible.

REVEGETATION – Rule 4.15

Vegetative Cover; Timing:

Vegetation was observed at a vantage point for the West Pit. Due to snow melt and recent precipitation event, vegetation appeared established along newer reclamation parcels.

SLIDES and DAMAGE - Rule 4.12:

Minor rilling was observed along the north facing slope along the Final East Pit Ditch drainage. This is generally standard for this area due to the seeps, precipitation along the area as well as the generally steep slopes. At this time, there is no major issue but should be monitored and repaired as necessary as part of normal husbandry practices.



Minor rilling at the Final East Pit Ditch drainage.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

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