



June 2023 New Horizon Partial Inspection Report

1 message

West - DNR, Lucas <lucas.west@state.co.us>

Wed, Jun 7, 2023 at 3:56 PM

To: "Tennyson, Tony (Colowyo)" <ttennyson@tristategt.org>

Hey Tony,

Attached is the digital copy of my inspection report for this month. Things look great and no maintenance items were identified. If you have any questions or need anything else please let me know. Thanks!

Lucas

Lucas West

Environmental Protection Specialist

Minerals Program, Grand Junction Field Office



COLORADO

Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety

Department of Natural Resources

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C-1981-008 June 2023 Partial Inspection Report.pdf




1305K



PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1981-008 Mine Name: New Horizon Mine Operator: Elk Ridge Mining and Reclamation, LLC Operator Address: Mr Tony Tennyson P.O. Box 628 27646 West 5th Avenue Nucla, CO 81424	County: Montrose Operation Type: Surface Permit Status: Active Ownership: Private
	Operator Representative Present: Cliff Chiles
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: June 6, 2023 Inspection Start Time: 09:09 Inspection End Date: June 6, 2023 Inspection End Time: 10:15	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): Lucas West	<table><tr><td>Inspector's Signature: </td><td>Signature Date: 6/7/2023</td></tr></table>	Inspector's Signature: 	Signature Date: 6/7/2023
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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

N - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

N - Explosives

N - Fish & Wildlife

R - Hydrologic Balance

N - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Other

N - 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

R - Topsoil

COMMENTS

This was a partial inspection conducted by Lucas West of the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety's Active Mines Program. The site is in final reclamation, and not active the day of the inspection. The weather was clear and dry. Cliff Chiles accompanied the inspection as the normal inspection contacts were performing monthly water sample collection. Five Photos accompany this report to illustrate the observed site conditions.

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:

The backfill area near the Johnson Property Topsoil Storage Area was observed, no settling, slumping or erosion was noted. In the recent weeks precipitation events have become sparser, resulting in no ponded water in the backfill area. Minor and sporadic growth of annual weeds were noted in the area, however not considered a problem. The backfill area can be seen in Photo One.

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:

Located in the Pole Barn near the Mine Office at the Facilities Area, a small area is used to store oils and other substances needing secondary containment. This area was observed and only one 5 gallon bucket was located on the spill pallet as seen in Photo Two. Around the spill pallet the area is extremely clean and well kept. No evidence of fugative leaks or spills were noted and the area is in excellent condition.

SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

Also located at the Facilities Area is an area used as a lay down yard and storage for other items. This area was observed to be free from trash and debris, and all items stored in this area were organized, neat and orderly. The storage area can be seen in Photo Three.

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Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 4

TOPSOIL – Rule 4.06

Removal 4.06.2; Substitute Materials 4.06.4(4); Storage and Protection 4.06.3; Redistribution 4.06.4:

Two of the main topsoil storage areas were observed during this inspection, the facilities area stockpile area and the Johnson property topsoil storage Area. The stockpiles stored at the facilities area were in excellent condition and well vegetated. Both the mixed and topsoil B stockpiles showed no evidence of erosion or material transport with their ring berms in tact. An example of the stockpiles can be seen in Photo Four. Photo Five shows the reclamation success of the area where topsoil had been previously stored. This area is extremely well vegetated, and wildlife was observed utilizing the area.

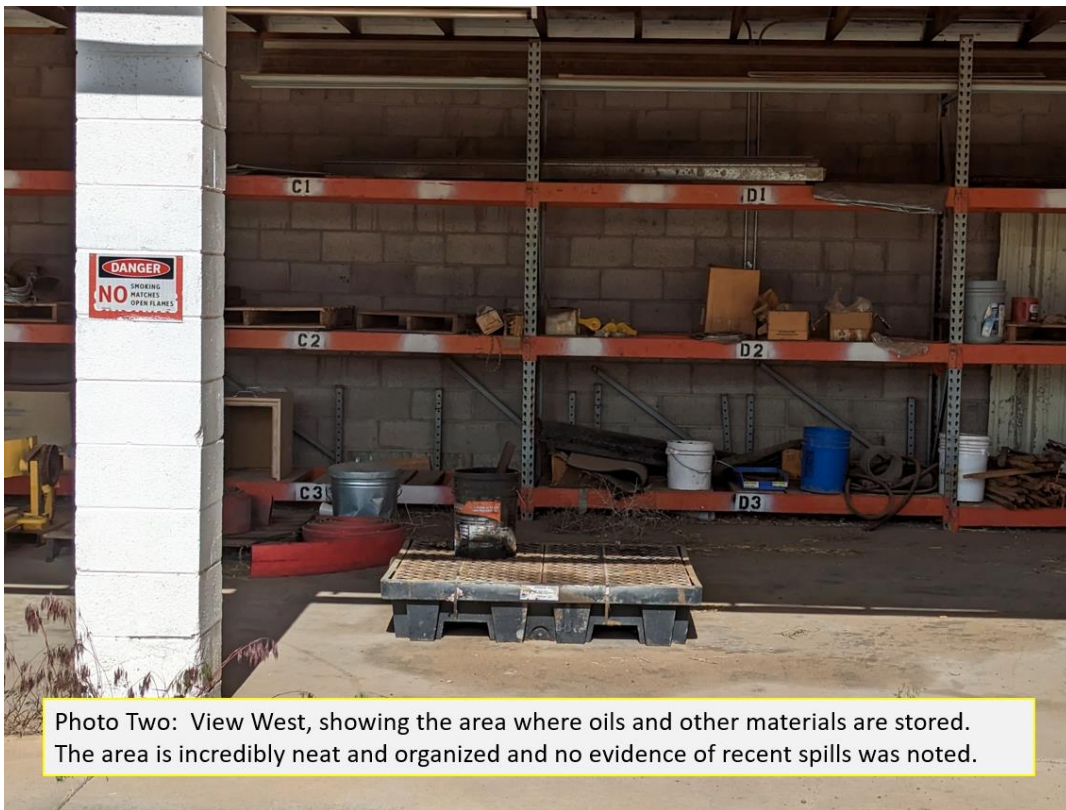
The stockpiles stored at the Johnson property topsoil storage area were in a similar condition. All are well vegetated and appeared stable at the time of the inspection. No evidence of erosion or sediment transport was noted. The stockpile of Bench 1 material was also noted to be in excellent condition with no erosion and a significant amount of volunteer vegetation on the pile.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo One: View West, showing a view of the backfill area. This area appeared stable at the time of the inspection and no erosion or ponded water was noted in the area.

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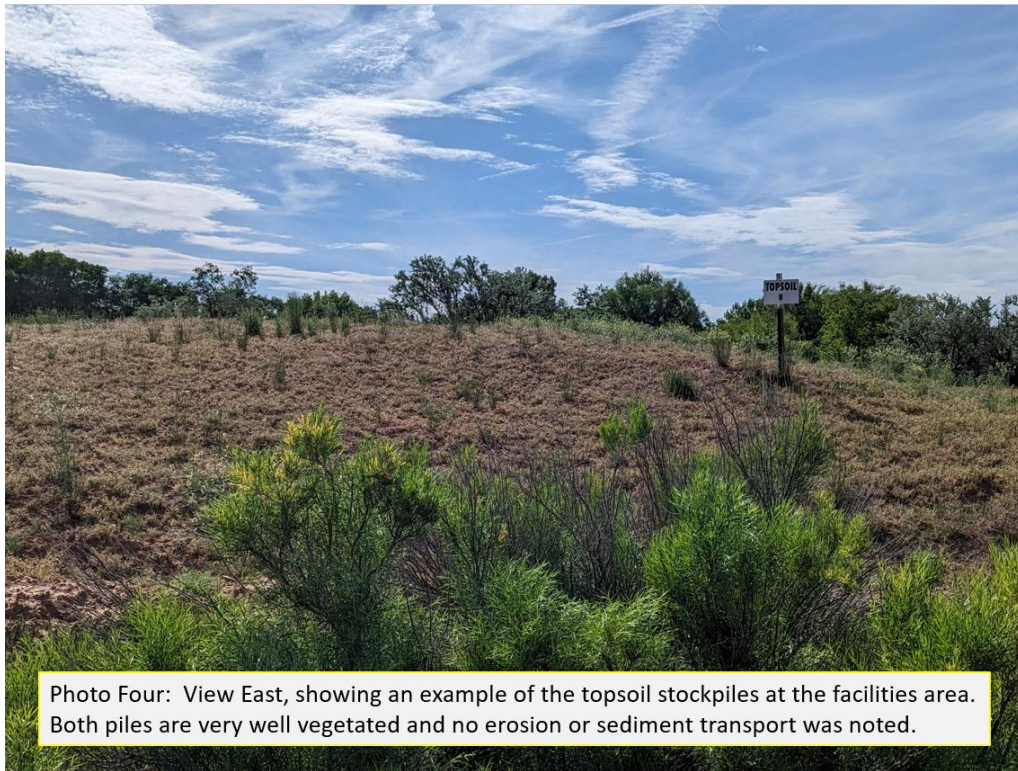


Photo Four: View East, showing an example of the topsoil stockpiles at the facilities area. Both piles are very well vegetated and no erosion or sediment transport was noted.



Photo Five: View South, showing the area where topsoil had been previously been stored and has since been reclaimed.

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