STATE OF COLORADO

Wein - DNR, Clayton <clayton.wein@state.co.us>

Deserado Mine, C-1981-018, June 2023 Complete Inspection Report

1 message

Wein - DNR, Clayton <clayton.wein@state.co.us> Mon, Jul 10, 2023 at 12:55 PM
To: Kurt Blunt <kblunt@deserado.com>

Good afternoon Kurt,

Please see the attached inspection report for the complete inspection of the Deserado Mine conducted on June 29, 2023. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Clayton Wein
Environmental Protection Specialist

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

P 303.866.3567 x 8185 | F 303.832.8106
1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203
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Deserado Mine, C-1981-018, June Complete Inspection Report.pdf
1429K

COLORADO
Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety
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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: Kurt Blunt
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: June 29, 2023 **Inspection Start Time:** 10:45 **Inspection End Date:** June 29, 2023 **Inspection End Time:** 13:20	**Inspection Type:** Coal Complete 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): Clayton Wein	**Inspector's Signature:** Clayton Wein	**Signature Date:** 7/10/2023

1313 Sherman St. Room 215
Denver, CO 80203
(303) 866-3567

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
R - Backfill & Grading
R - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste
N - Explosives
R - Fish & Wildlife
R - Hydrologic Balance
Y - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan
N - Other
R - Processing Waste
R - Roads
R - Reclamation Success
N - Revegetation
N - Subsidence
N - Slides and Other Damage
R - Support Facilities On-site
R - Signs and Markers
N - Support Facilities Not On-site
N - Special Categories Of Mining
R - Topsoil

COMMENTS

This report documents the observations made during a complete inspection of the Deserado Mine conducted on June 29, 2023. The inspection was completed by Clayton Wein of the Division. The operator was represented by Kurt Blunt during the inspection. The weather was clear with a temperature starting at 75 degrees F. The ground conditions were dry.

AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS – Rule 5.02.4(1):

The records for the Deserado Mine are located at the mine office. The records were in good condition and up to date. Please see the Availability of Records Form attached at the end of this report for more details.

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:

During the inspection a drill pad with recent reclamation work was inspected. The borehole casing had been sealed and capped (Photo 1). The pad had also begun to be backfilled and graded to the approximate original contour (Photo 2). The site was stable and there were no indications of erosional features. No off-site impacts were observed.

EXCESS SPOIL and DEVELOPMENT WASTE – Rule 4.09
Placement; Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization:

The Halandras Landfill is located to the north of the main facilities area and just west off of County Road 65 (CR65). The landfill consists of two open pits. During the inspection all waste materials were confined to the open pits (Photo 3). The sub soil and topsoil stockpiles were stable with vegetative cover. Topsoil pile markers were visible on top of the resource piles. The sump located at the southern end of the landfill was dry and stable.

FISH and WILDLIFE – Rule 4.18:

During the inspection of the mine, thousands of large crickets were observed throughout the mine site (Photo 4). The crickets were a part of a somewhat recent hatch. The large volume of crickets may have been due to an above average precipitation amount this spring, a natural hatching cycle or a combination of the two. During

the inspection of the PP-2 pond, a mother duck and a few of her ducklings were observed swimming in the pond.

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:

Three ponds are located within the main facilities area; the DP-1 pond, the PP-1 pond and the PP-2 pond. The DP-1 pond is located on the lower facilities bench and treats all runoff from the main facilities area. The DP-1 pond was impounding and discharging water at the time of the inspection (Photo 5). The trash rack on the primary discharge outlet was free of obstructions. The embankment for the pond was stable with vegetation (Photo 6). There were no erosional concerns identified. The PP-1 pond was holding water but was not discharging. The PP-1 pond is located on the middle facilities bench by the prep plant. The pond's embankments were vegetated and stable. No erosional features were observed. The PP-2 pond is located on the upper facilities bench. The pond was holding water during the inspection (Photo 7). No discharge from the pond was occurring. The pond's embankment was stable with vegetative cover. There were no indications of erosion seen.

The drainage ditches throughout the main facilities benches were clear from debris and functioning as designed to transport runoff to the DP-1 pond (Photo 8). There are several half CMP culverts on the slopes of the facilities benches that convey water off of the benches and into ditches reporting to the DP-1 pond. The CMP culverts were observed to be in good condition and clear of blockages.

Located to the north end of the permit area, the RR-1 pond and RS-1 sump receive runoff from the rail loadout. The RR-1 pond was dry. The outlet was observed to be clear of debris. The embankment was stable with vegetative cover and there were no erosional issues noted. The RS-1 sump was also dry. The sump's embankments were vegetated and stable. No indications of erosion were observed. The ditch on the south side of the rail loadout transports runoff to the RS-1 sump and RR-1 pond. The ditch was dry at the time of the inspection. The ditch was stable and there were no indications of erosional features.

Two ponds, SS-1 and SS-2, are located to the north of the Slot Storage facility. The SS-2 pond was dry (Photo 9). The outlet for the pond was clear of debris. The embankment was vegetated and stable. There were no erosional concerns. The SS-1 pond was mostly muddy in the bottom of the pond. The discharge outlet was observed to be clear. The pond's embankments were stable and vegetated. No erosional features were identified. Culverts and ditches that report to the SS-1 and SS-2 ponds were dry. There were no blockages observed.

The B Seam Dewatering System No. 2 was holding water in its second cell. The level of water in the pond was below the discharge outlet. The outlet was clear of debris. The pond's embankment was stable with vegetative cover. No erosional features were identified.

All cells of the B Seam Dewatering System No. 1 were holding water (Photo 10). Water was discharging through the spillway at the Last Chance Pond. The spillway was unobstructed. The embankments were vegetated and stable. No erosional features were observed.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 8
Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 4

The RP-1 pond is located at the northern base of the reclaimed RP-1 refuse pile. The pond was observed to be dry during the inspection (Photo 11). The trash rack on the spillway was clean. There were no indications of instability or erosion on the embankment. The pond's embankment was covered with vegetation.

The RP-2/3 pond is located at the northeast corner of the RP-2/3/4 refuse pile. The main and west cells of the pond were dry. The east cell was holding some water in it. The spillways into the main cell were observed to be clear. The primary spillway's trach rack was clear of debris. Embankments for the pond were stable and vegetated. There were no erosional concerns identified.

The RP-4 pond is located at the northwest base of the RP-2/3/4 refuse pile. The pond was dry during the inspection. The spillway was clear of obstructions. The embankments were stable with vegetative cover. No erosion was identified.

The RP-5 pond is located at the northern base of the RP-5a refuse pile. The pond was also dry during the inspection (Photo 12). The outlet was observed to be clear. The pond's embankment was stable with vegetation. There were no erosional features observed.

The RP-A pond is located at the eastern base of the RP-A refuse pile. The pond was dry. The outlet was observed to be clear. The embankment was stable with vegetative cover. No erosional features were identified.

Perimeter ditches for the refuse disposal piles were noted to be clear of debris and stable. The ditches were dry during the inspection.

Access to the SDH-3/5 Dewatering System was unavailable during the inspection. Work was being conducted on the access road to the site at the time of the inspection.

The Raw Water Lagoon was impounding water during the inspection. The pond's outlet was unobstructed. The embankments for the pond were vegetated and stable. There were no erosional features observed.

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

Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization; Placement:

During the inspection Refuse material was being spread out from the windrow stockpiles on top of the RP-5a refuse pile. The slopes of the pile were stable with only minor riling observed (Photo 13). The rills on the slopes of the pile have been documented in previous Division inspections and are not affecting the stability of the pile. The size of the rills on the slopes have not appeared to have increased in size or depth since the previous inspection.

Refuse material was stockpiled on windrows on top of the RP-2.3.4 refuse pile. The pile was stable and the slopes remained similar to previous inspections. The rills noted on the slopes of the pile have not increased in size or depth. The stability of the pile was not impacted by the rills.

Refuse material continued to be placed on the RP-A refuse disposal area. The pile's foot print had increased in size since the previous inspection. The RP-A pile is the newest of the refuse piles at the Deserado Mine. Work on establishing the base of the pile has progressed. The pile was observed to be stable with no erosional concerns.

ROADS – Rule 4.03

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Construction 4.03.1(3)/4.03.2(3), Drainage 4.03.1(4)/4.03.2(4), Surfacing and Maintenance4.03.1(5) and (6)/4.03.2(5) and (6), Reclamation 4.03.1(7)/4.03.2(7):

The haul road was stable and well maintained. The drainage ditches that parallel the road were dry. The ditches were observed to be stable with no erosional concerns. The intersection of the haul road and CR 65 was also well maintained. The intersection was stable with no erosional noted.

Access roads throughout the mine site were in good repair. There was no sections of road with ruts or erosional issues. All sections of road traversed were noted to be stable with no off-site impacts.

RECLAMATION SUCCESS - Rule 4.15, Rule 3:

The RP-1 refuse pile has been fully reclaimed. The reclamation work on the pile was completed several years ago. The pile was stable with mature vegetative cover (Photo 14). There were no indications of erosional features. The perimeter ditches were dry and stable. There were no indications of channel breaches or off-site impacts.

SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

Support facilities inspected included; the main facilities area, the explosives storage pad, the fuel storage tanks, the haul road laydown blisters, the B Vent Shaft No. 1 (Photo 15), RDH-2, RDH-4, the Nitrogen Plant #2, the Slot Storage, the conveyor corridor, transfer buildings, water storage tanks, radio communications tower and the West Mains Vent Shaft. Pads for the facilities inspected were in good condition and stable. Pads with cut and fill slopes were stable with no indications of erosion. Pads with berms were observed to be vegetated and stable. No off-site impacts were identified.

SIGNS AND MARKERS – Rule 4.02:

Mine identification markers were located at the north and south entrances to the permit boundary on CR-65. The signs were posted in unobstructed locations and easy to spot. The signs display the permit number for the mine, and contact information for both the permittee and the Division. Throughout the inspection topsoil piles were observed to be marked by a T-post painted white on top, placed on the top of the piles.

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 main Facilities topsoil pile is located to the west side of the main facilities area. The pile was stable with vegetative cover. There were no indications of erosional features. The perimeter ditches were observed to be clear of debris and stable. No loss of topsoil resource was noted. Various topsoil piles are located throughout the permit area in close proximity to the disturbed areas. Topsoil piles were observed to be stable and vegetated. The perimeter ditches for the piles were also stable with vegetative cover. There were no indications of erosion or loss of topsoil resources.

DOCUMENTS RECEIVED: Hard copy of Minor Revision No. 185 application.

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: A recently sealed borehole

Photo 2: The recently sealed borehole's pad has begun contouring back to approximate original contour.

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Photo 3: The Halandras Landfill.

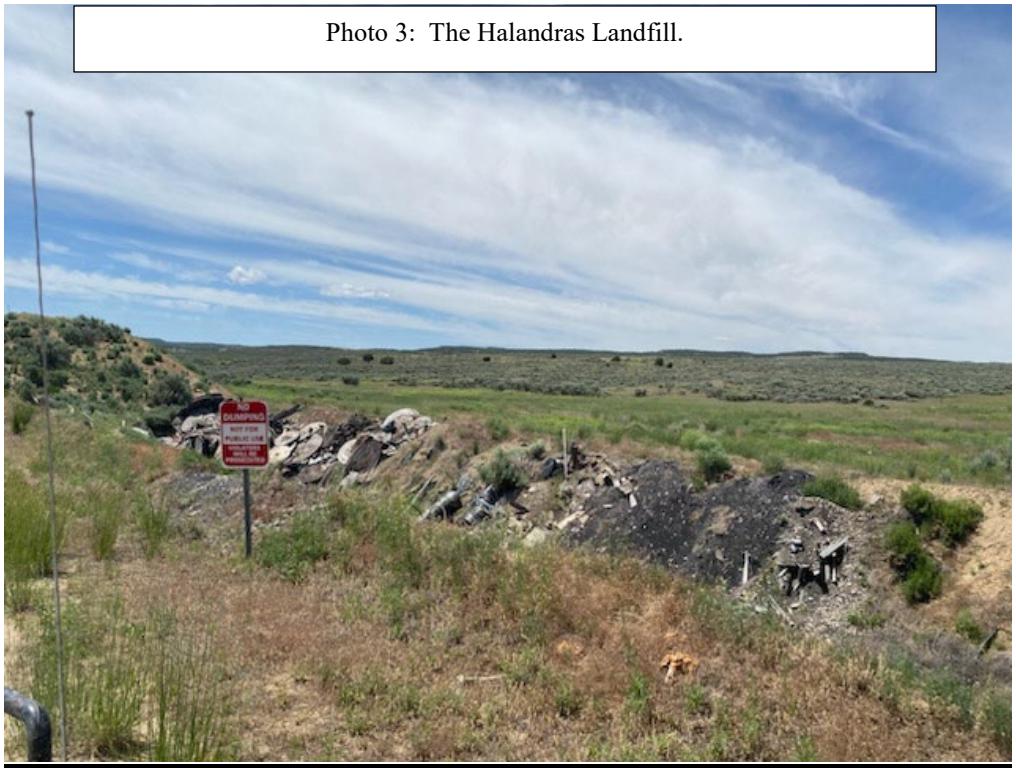

Photo 5: The entrance road to the mine office was covered with crickets.

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Photo 5: The DP-1 pond looking to the northeast.

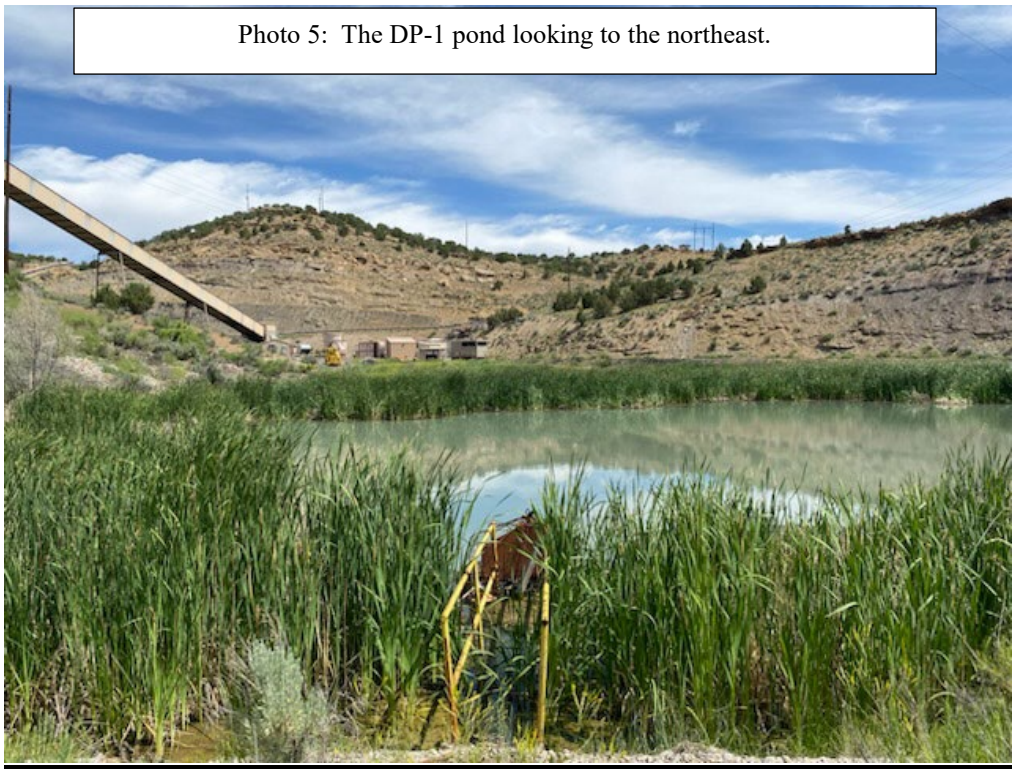
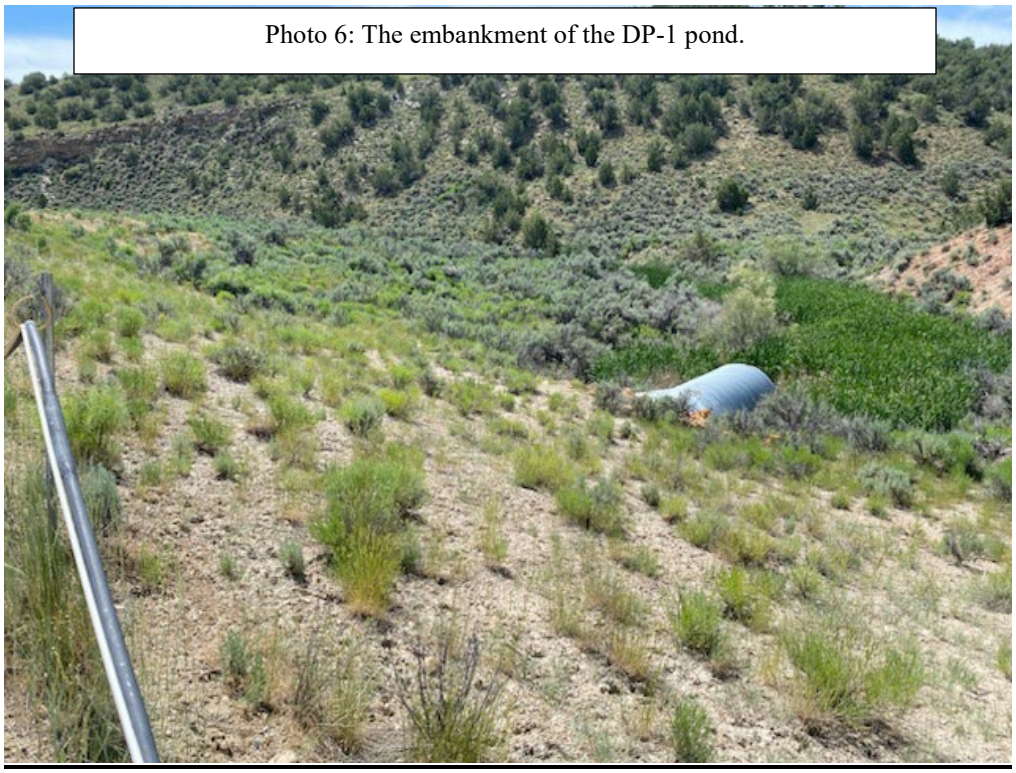


Photo 6: The embankment of the DP-1 pond.



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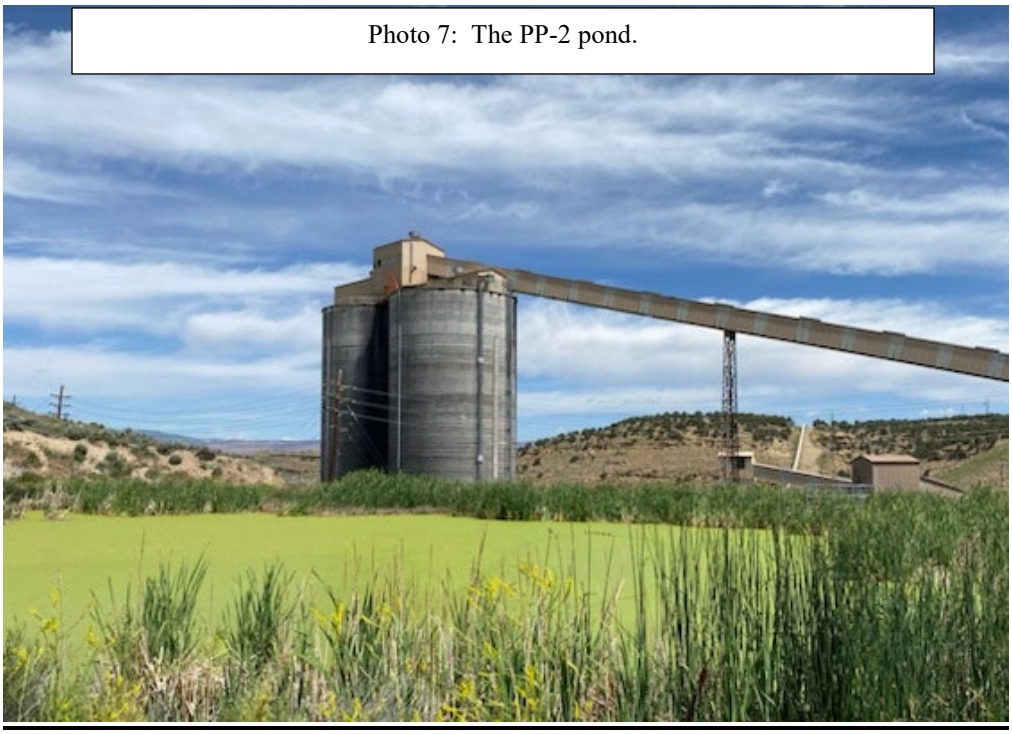

Photo 7: The PP-2 pond.

Photo 8: One of the ditches on the middle facilities bench transporting runoff to the DP-1 pond.

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Photo 9: The dry SS-2 pond.

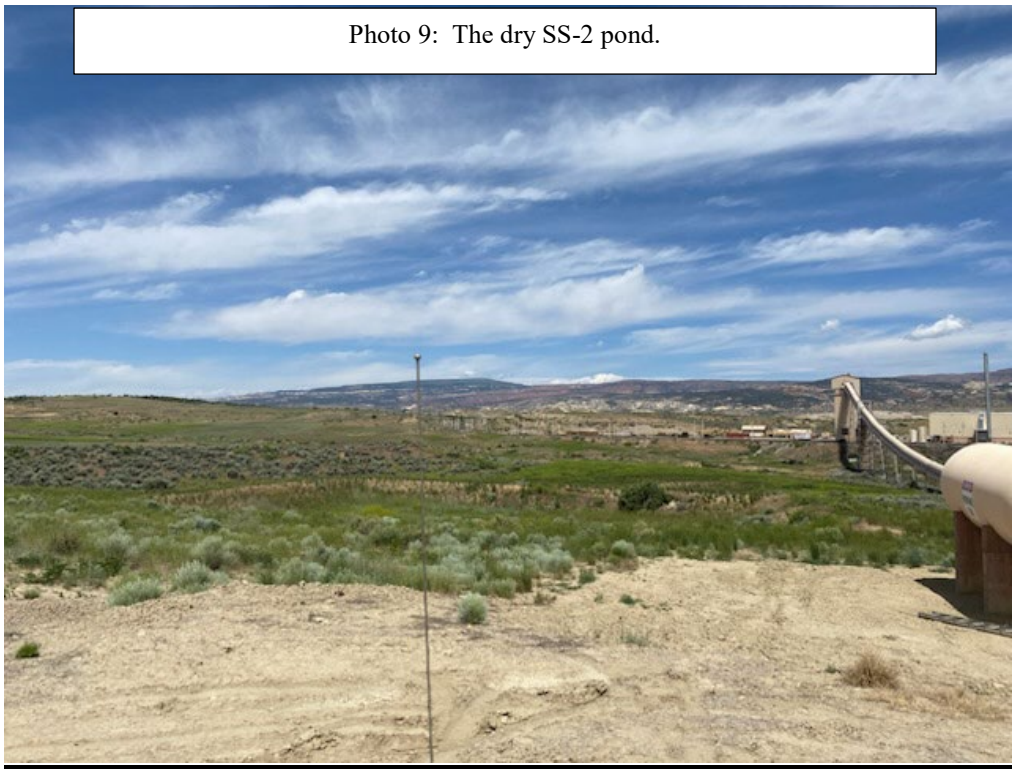

Photo 10: The Last Chance Pond at the B Seam dewatering System No. 1.

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Photo 11: the RP-1 pond.

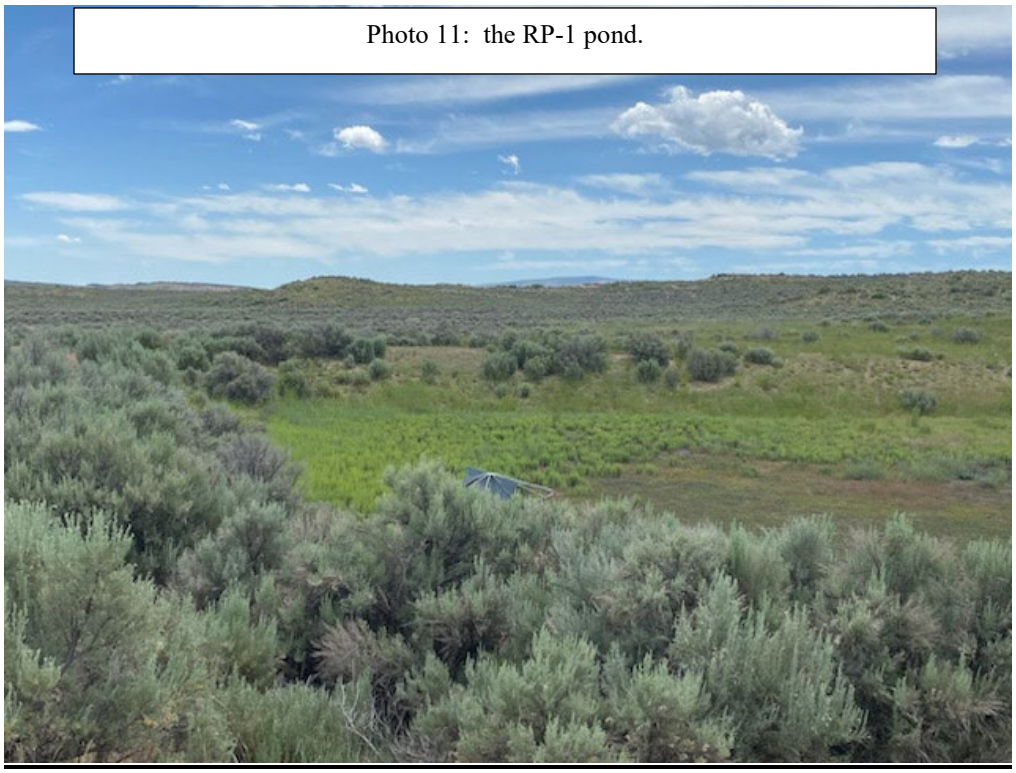

Photo 12: The RP-5 pond.

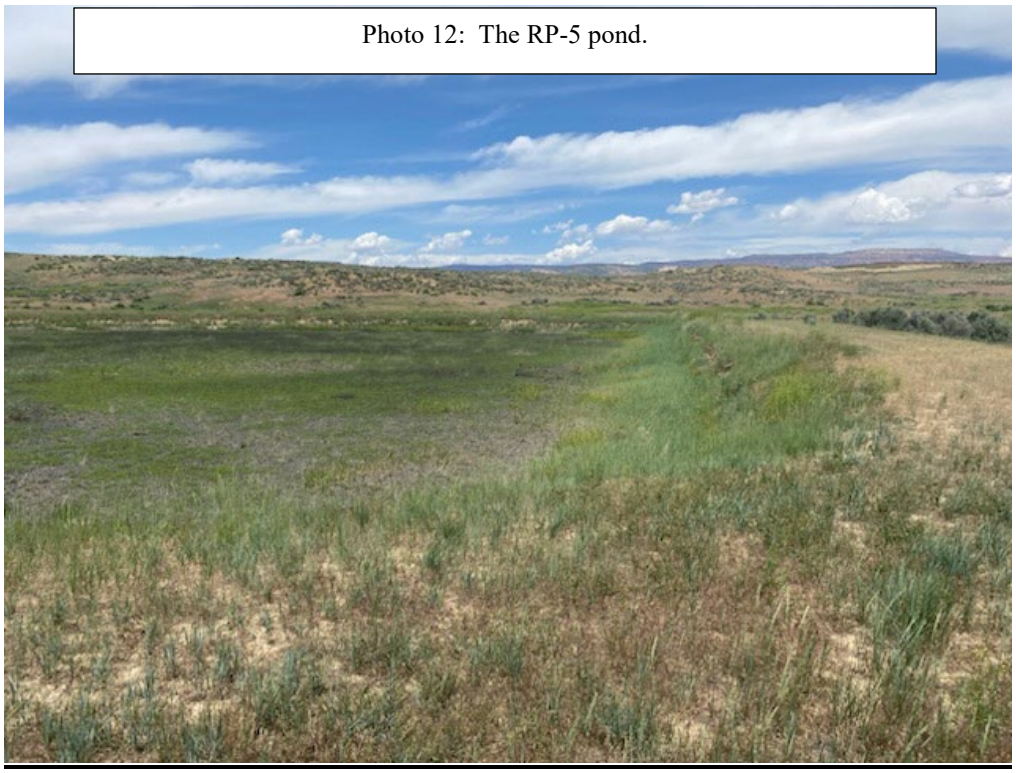

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Photo 13: The west slope of the RP-5a refuse pile.

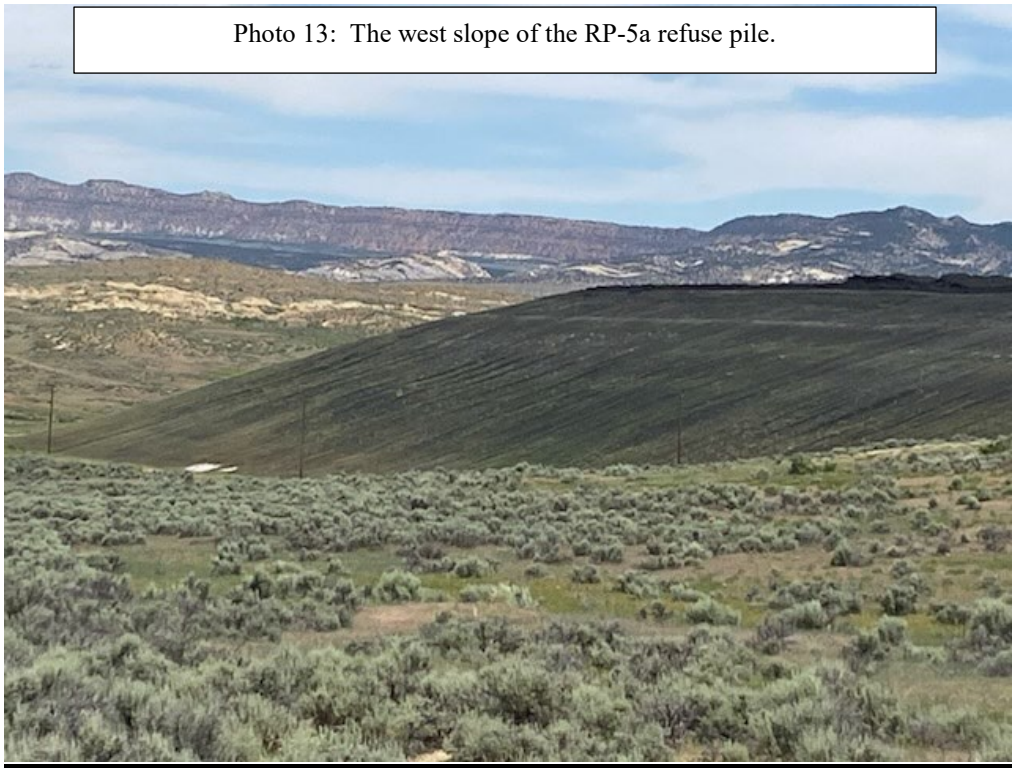

Photo 14: The reclaimed RP-1 refuse pile.

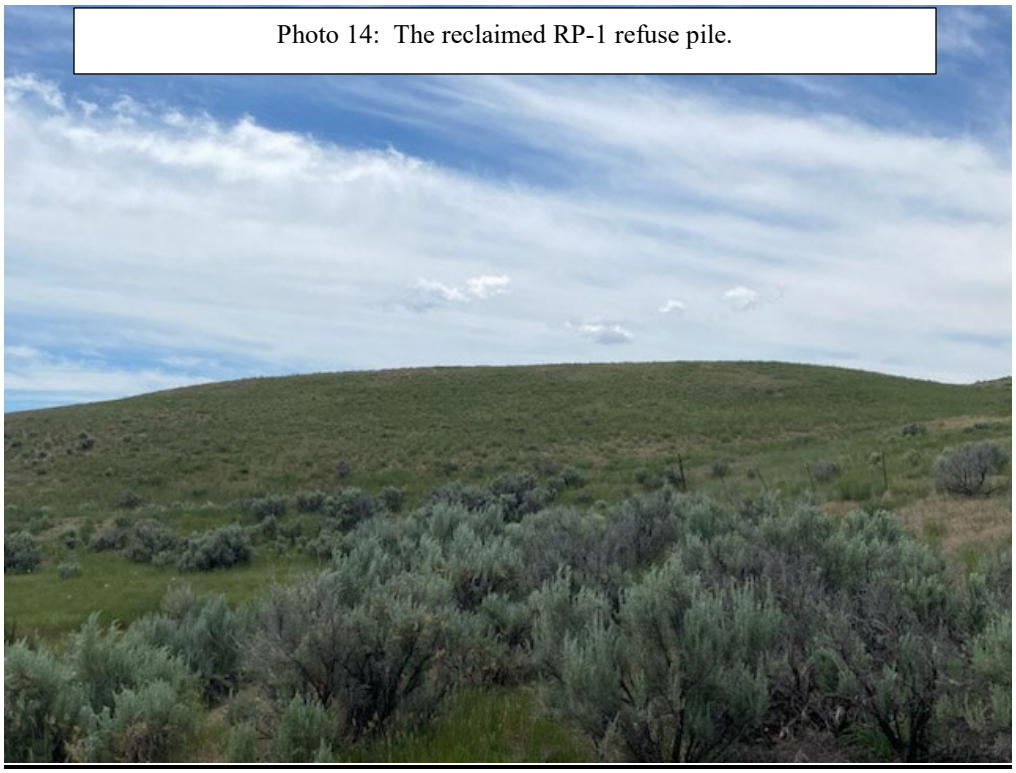

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Photo 15: The B Vent Shaft No. 1 pad.

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AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS

PERMIT RECORDS	
DRMS Permit	RN-7
Permit Application w/Revisions	OK
Findings Document	RN-7
Insurance Certificate	Exp. 12/30/2023
Bond Document	OK
Phased Bond Release Documents/Findings	NA
Air Emission Permits	OK
County Special Use Permits	OK
UG Mining Landowner Notification	OK
Subsidence Monitoring Reports	1st Q 2023
Subsidence Monitoring Data	PAP
Rill & Gully Survey	NA
Vegetation Monitoring Data	2022 ARR
Specific Variance Approvals	NA
Annual Reclamation Reports	2022
Midterm Review Documents	MT-8
DRMS/OSM Inspection Reports/Enforcement Actions (3 Years)	Up to date, May of 2023
Transfers/Succession of Operator	OK
Temporary Cessation Notification	NA
Reclamation Cost Estimate	MT-8
CERTIFICATIONS	
Pond Certifications	OK
Annual Certifications for Impoundments	OK
Fill Certifications for Excess Spoil or Underground Development Waste	OK
• Quarterly Inspections	Up to date
• Compaction Testing	Up to date
• Final Certification	RP-1
Coal Processing Waste Banks	Up to date
Haul Road Certifications	OK
Access Road Certifications	OK

HYDROLOGIC RECORDS	
NPDES Permit	Admin. Extension
NPDES Records	1st Q 2023
Stormwater Management Plan	OK
SPCC Plan	2008
MSHA Pond Inspections	NA
State Engineer's Pond Inspection	DP-1
Quarterly Pond Inspections	1st Q 2023
Annual Hydrology Reports	2022
• Ground Water Monitoring	AHR
• Surface Water Monitoring	AHR
• Spring & Seep Monitoring	NA
• Mine Water Discharge Monitoring	AHR
• Mine Inflow Study	AHR
• Water Consumption Records	AHR
Well Permits	OK
BLASTING RECORDS	
Blasting Publication	NA
Blasting Records (3 years)	NA
ATFE Explosives Permit	EXP. 2024
Blasting Variances	NA
Pre-Blast Surveys	NA
ADDITIONAL RECORDS (specify)	

COMMENTS:

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