



Nicki Poulos
Environmental Engineer I
npoulos@archrsc.com
Phone: 970.929.2219

Mountain Coal Company, LLC

A subsidiary of Arch Resources, Inc.

West Elk Mine

5174 Highway 133

Somerset, CO 81434

June 21, 2023

Colorado Dept. of Health and Environment
Water Quality Control Division
4300 Cherry Creek Dr. South
Denver, CO 80246

Re: Mountain Coal Company, LLC, West Elk Mine; Permit No. CO0038776 - Semi-Annual Stormwater Inspections

To Whom it may Concern:

Mountain Coal Company, LLC (MCC) is required by the Colorado Discharge Permit System, Permit Number CO00338776 (the permit): Part I, Section H, 1. A. to conduct two comprehensive stormwater inspections for Outfalls 014, 019-043, 046-048, 050-051, 053-054, 056-062, 065-069, 071-104, 107, 117-119, 123-125 between March 21st and June 20th and again between September 21st and December 20th of each year. Part I, Section H, 1, E, states that during times of adverse weather conditions that prevent field inspections, permittee must document the basis of failure to inspect. Furthermore, in the same section, the permit states that, "conditions that are dangerous or create inaccessibility for personnel" as reasons for failure to inspect. Below is the reasoning for failure to complete Spring 2023 inspection requirement:

MCC and the surrounding local areas have experienced unseasonably severe winter and spring weather conditions in 2022-2023 and have continues to battle ongoing snow and rain storms as well as extreme runoff throughout the Spring months. This extreme weather has caused Highway 133 to wash out and limit vehicle access to the mine for some time. It also delayed MCC 's contractors in opening and repairing the mountain roads that access the mine ventilation boreholes (MVBs). For these reasons, a portion of the MVBs were not safely accessible for the Semi-Annual Stormwater Inspections.

Attempts to reach the inspection areas and photo documentation of weather conditions were made on: March 20th, 24th, 28th, April 26th, May 11th, 24th, 25th, 26th, 28th, June 2nd, 15th, 16th and 17th. Photo documentation is available upon request.

Please see the attached inspection forms for outfall Inspection information. Feel free to contact me for more information.

Sincerely,

Nicki Poulos
Environmental Engineer, MCC