




PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1980-007 Mine Name: West Elk Mine Operator: Mountain Coal Company, LLC Operator Address: Ms Nicki Poulos 5174 Highway 133 Somerset, CO 81434	County: Delta, Gunnison Operation Type: Underground Permit Status: Active Ownership: Private
	Operator Representative Present: Nicki Poulos, Garren Atchley, Mark Peirce, Cody Rapke, Jessica Wilczek
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) 	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: June 27, 2023 Inspection Start Time: 08:00 Inspection End Date: June 29, 2023 Inspection End Time: 13:00	Inspection Type: Coal Partial Inspection Inspection Reason: Surety Release Requested Weather: Clear
Joint Inspection Agency: OSM USFS	Joint Inspection Contacts: Tom Medlin Dan Gray
Post Inspection Agency: BLM	Post Inspection Contacts: Stanley (Foster) Beckett
Inspector(s): Leigh Simmons	Inspector's Signature:  Signature Date: July 14, 2023

Inspection Topic Summary

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

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

COMMENTS

This was a partial inspection by Leigh Simmons of the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division), with a special focus on the reclamation success of sites included in the SL-16 (partial Phase II) and SL-17 (partial Phase III) bond release applications. Tom Medlin (OSMRE), Dan Gray (USFS), and Nicki Poulos, Garren Atchley, Mark Peirce, Cody Rapke and Jessica Wilczek of Mountain Coal Company (MCC) each accompanied the inspection at times. The weather was clear, warm and dry. The mine was active.

GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE:

Longwall mining of the SS4 panel had been halted between crosscuts 19 and 18 on the headgate, owing to poorer than expected coal quality. MCC did not expect to mine the rest of the panel. Construction of recovery chutes was in progress.

Development of the LWE15 panel was complete.

Development of the LWE12 tailgate and headgate was in progress.

RECLAMATION SUCCESS - Rule 4.15, Rule 3:

In general the reclamation success of the sites inspected was excellent, with no signs of instability or surface erosion, a diverse mixture of perennial grasses and forbs, and relatively few weeds. A complete list of the sites inspected, with more detailed, site-specific observations, is given in Table 1 (SL-16) and Table 2 (SL-17) below. A yellow fill is used to highlight the row where some action on the part of MCC is necessary before the bond release can be approved. Figures 1 and 2 are screenshots of the web map used to record notes and photographs in the field, and can be used to identify the location of the sites referred to in the tables.

Weed spraying contractors, Pest Away, of Delta, CO, were in the field during the inspection. Weylin Johnson said that the system currently in place, where he receives a list of sites to be sprayed in priority order, is an improvement over how things were organized in the past. It is certainly the case, based on observations made during the inspection, that weeds on remote pads and roads are currently being controlled more effectively than was the case previously. Tables 1 and 2 can be used to help inform the priority list for future spraying.

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Table 1: SL-16 sites

Site	Phase	Landowner	Status	Comments
E2-13	N/A	USFS	Not reclaimed	Remove from application
E2-51/52/54	N/A	USFS	Not reclaimed	Remove from application
E3-29	N/A	USFS	Not reclaimed	Remove from application
E3-51	N/A	USFS	Not reclaimed	Remove from application
E3-64/65	N/A	USFS	Not reclaimed	Remove from application
E3-68/72	N/A	USFS	Not reclaimed	Remove from application
E4-15	II	USFS	Inspected, no problem	
E4-16 and road	II	USFS	Inspected, no problem	
E4-17	II	USFS	Inspected, no problem	
E5-1/2/3	II	USFS	Inspected, no problem	Heavily grazed. Weeds have been sprayed
E5-4	II	USFS	Inspected, no problem	Thistle has been sprayed
E5-5	II	USFS	Inspected, no problem	Different vegetation, mostly grass and rabbitbrush
E5-6/7	II	USFS	Inspected, no problem	
E5-8	II	USFS	Inspected, no problem	Lots of yarrow. Bare patch on NE edge, with some thistle. Consider supplemental seeding.
E5-9/10	II	USFS	Inspected, no problem	Needs spraying for houndstongue, few thistle
E5-11	N/A	USFS	Not reclaimed	Remove from application
E5-12/13/11LWE5X40 and road	II	USFS	Inspected, no problem	Quite a lot of houndstongue on road, has been sprayed
E5-14 and road	II	USFS	Inspected, no problem	Very few weeds. Has been sprayed.
E5-15 and road	II	USFS	Inspected, no problem	Thistle has obviously been sprayed. Houndstongue too?
E5-16	II	USFS	Inspected, no problem	Thistle, houndstongue and mullein have been sprayed. Some big patches to keep an eye on.
E5-17	II	USFS	Inspected, no problem	Spot treat for thistle
E5-18	II	USFS	Inspected, no problem	
10LWE5X40	II	USFS	Inspected, no problem	
10LWE6X62	II	USFS	Inspected, no problem	
11LWE6X53	II	USFS	Inspected, no problem	Pretty weedy, whole pad needs sprayed
MW 5-11-1	N/A	USFS	Not inspected	Deep creek crossing impassable. Has not been through Phase I. Remove from application
MW 5-12-1	N/A	USFS	Not inspected	Deep creek crossing impassable. Has not been through Phase I. Remove from application

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Table 2: SL-17 sites

Site	Phase	Landowner	Status	Comments
1-21-38/2-21-37/3-21-36/4-21-32	III	USFS	Inspected, no problem	
15-05	III	USFS	Inspected, no problem	
15-06	III	USFS	Inspected, no problem	
17-08a/17-08b	III	USFS	Inspected, no problem	
19-04/19-05 and road	III	USFS	Inspected, problem	Some Canada thistle to spray - not too dense. Incorrect coordinates for 19-05 were given in Peacock spreadsheet, actually co-located with 19-04
20-01A/AAA	III	USFS	Inspected, problem	Couple of patches of Canada thistle should be sprayed
20-31	III	USFS	Inspected, no problem	
22-04	III	USFS	Inspected, no problem	
23HG1E3XC	III	USFS	Inspected, no problem	Hard to locate, small disturbed area has been reclaimed close to coordinates. Steep, hard to access. Vegetation is ok, little cheat grass, oak brush is coming in
23HG3E3XC	III	USFS	Inspected, no problem	Covered by topsoil pile
24-06/24.07 and road	III	USFS	Inspected, no problem	
24-08	N/A	USFS	Not reclaimed	Large pad with two open holes. Included in inspection by mistake - not in SL-17 application
24-09	III	USFS	Inspected, no problem	Road appears to run through location of hole
24HG1E3XC/24HG1E4-5XC/24HG2E5XC	III	USFS	Inspected, no problem	Pad looks great. Incorrect coordinates for 24HG1E4-5XC and 24HG2E5XC were given in Peacock spreadsheet, actually co-located with 24HG1E3XC
Road to 24HG1E3XC/24HG1E4-5XC/24HG2E5XC	III	USFS	Inspected, problem	A few houndstongue in places and some Canada thistle near the top, should be sprayed

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DOCUMENTS RECEIVED

N/A

OTHER (SPECIFY)

N/A

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

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

MAPS

Figure 1: Screenshot of web map showing location of SL-16 sites

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Figure 2: Screenshot of web map showing location of SL-17 sites

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PHOTOGRAPHS



Figure 3: E4-15



Figure 4: E4-16

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Figure 5: Woods rose on E4-15

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Figure 6: E4-17



Figure 7: Cows grazing E5-1

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Figure 8: Weeds sprayed on E5-1

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Figure 9: E5-4



Figure 10: E5-5

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Figure 11: E5-6



Figure 12: E5-6

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Figure 13: Relatively bare patch on E5-8



Figure 14: Houndstongue on E5-10

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Figure 15: Road to E5-12

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Figure 16: Sprayed houndstongue on road to E5-12



Figure 17: E5-14

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Figure 18: Sprayed thistle on E5-14

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Figure 19: Road to E5-14

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Figure 20: E5-15



Figure 21: Sprayed thistle on E5-15

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Figure 22: Road to E5-15



Figure 23: E5-16, with sprayed weeds in foreground

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Figure 24: Jacob's Ladder (*Polemonium*) on E5-17

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Figure 25: E5-18



Figure 26: 10LWE5X40

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Figure 27: 10LWE6X62



Figure 28: 11LWE6X53, weeds need to be sprayed

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Figure 29: Sprayed houndstongue on 11LWE5X40

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Figure 30: Deep Creek crossing

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Figure 31: 15-05



Figure 32: 15-06

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Figure 33: 17-08a



Figure 34: 19-04

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Figure 35: Canada thistle on 20-01A/AAA (1 of 2)



Figure 36: Canada thistle on 20-01A/AAA (2 of 2)

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Figure 37: 20-31



Figure 38: 22-04

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Figure 39: 23HG1E3XC (1 of 2)

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Figure 40: 23HG1E3XC (2 of 2)



Figure 41: 23HG3E3XC under topsoil pile

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Figure 42: 24HG1E3XC/24HG1E4-5XC/24HG2E5XC



Figure 43: Road to 24HG1E3XC/24HG1E4-5XC/24HG2E5XC

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