

Simmons - DNR, Leigh <leigh.simmons@state.co.us>

C1981022, Elk Creek Mine, July Inspection Report

1 message

Simmons - DNR, Leigh <leigh.simmons@state.co.us> To: Doug Smith <Doug.Smith@oxbow.com>

Fri, Jul 14, 2023 at 3:37 PM

Attached

Leigh Simmons Environmental Protection Specialist

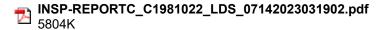


COLORADO

Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety

Department of Natural Resources

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PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1981-022 Mine Name: Elk Creek Mine Operator: Oxbow Mining, LLC Operator Address: Mr Doug Smith	County: Delta, Gunnison Operation Type: Underground Permit Status: Active Ownership: Private	
3737 Hwy 133	Operator Representative Present:	
P. O. Box 535 Somerset, CO 81434	None	
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)		

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: July 12, 20 Inspection Start Time: 10:30 Inspection End Date: Inspection End Time:	023		Inspection Type: Coal Partial Inspection Inspection Reason: Normal I&E Program Weather: Clear	
Joint Inspection Agency: Jo		Joint	Joint Inspection Contacts:	
None				
Post Inspection Agency: Po		Post	Inspection Contacts:	
None				
Inspector(s):	Inspector's Signature: Signature Date:			
Leigh Simmons	Bli		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 N - Reclamation Success

 ${f N}$ - Backfill & Grading ${f R}$ - Revegetation

R - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste N - Subsidence

N - Explosives
 N - Slides and Other Damage
 N - Fish & Wildlife
 N - Support Facilities On-site
 R - Hydrologic Balance
 N - Signs and Markers

N - 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). The weather was hot, clear and dry. The status of the Elk Creek Mine is "active" however no coal is being mined and the only activity since the last inspection was site maintenance.

EXCESS SPOIL and DEVELOPMENT WASTE - Rule 4.09

Placement; Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization:

Both the West Valley Fill and the II West Valley Fill were stable and well vegetated.

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:

The water level in Elk Creek had dropped lower still since the last inspection, but it continued to flow. No repairs to the stream channel had been attempted yet.

Ponds C and E were both completely dry. The concrete embankments of each were both stable.

OTHER (SPECIFY):

The railroad company continued to use the flat area adjacent to the mine entrance for their ongoing track maintenance project.

REVEGETATION – Rule 4.15

Vegetative Cover; Timing:

Scotch thistle *Onopordum acanthium* was quite prevalent on the reclaimed Valley Fills and the surrounding areas, and will need to be treated. More details are given in the photograph captions.

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.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Figure 1: Elk Creek



Figure 2: Pond C



Figure 3: West Valley Fill (1 of 2)



Figure 4: West Valley Fill (2 of 2)



Figure 5: Scotch thistle on lower access road to West Valley Fill (1 of 2)



Figure 6: Scotch thistle on lower access road to West Valley Fill (2 of 2)





Figure 8: Top of West Valley Fill



Figure 9: Reclaimed road to II West Valley Fill. Not too weedy. Lots of penstemon and Cicer Milk Vetch.



Figure 10: Top of II West Valley Fill, patch of thistle should be treated



Figure 11: II West Valley Fill and Pond E



Figure 12: Isolated thistle along lower access road and at site of topsoil pile should be treated



Figure 13: Lower section of reclaimed Elk Creek channel