



STATE OF
COLORADO

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C1980007, West Elk Mine, July Inspection Report

1 message

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

Fri, Jul 14, 2023 at 4:23 PM

To: "Poulos, Nicki" <npoulos@archrsc.com>

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Attached

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Environmental Protection Specialist



COLORADO
Division of Reclamation,
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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, Ben Godwin, Ed Ogrodny
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) 	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: July 11, 2023 Inspection Start Time: 11:00 Inspection End Date: Inspection End Time:	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): Leigh Simmons, Amy Eschberger, Amber Michels, Hunter Ridley, Joel Renfro and Todd Jesse	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 - Availability of Records

N - Backfill & Grading

N - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

N - Explosives

N - Fish & Wildlife

N - Hydrologic Balance

R - 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

N - Topsoil

COMMENTS

This was a partial inspection by Leigh Simmons, Amy Eschberger, Amber Michels, Hunter Ridley, Joel Renfro and Todd Jesse of the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division). The focus of the inspection was a general tour of the surface facilities and underground workings for DRMS and OSMRE staff unfamiliar with, and interested in, operational underground coal mines. Charlie Kwak and Steven Daniels of OSMRE; and Nicki Poulos, Ed Ogrodny and Ben Godwin of MCC accompanied the inspection. The weather was clear, hot 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 LWE12 tailgate and headgate was in progress.

The longwall miner was in a return air environment and was not accessible during the tour. The active development workings on the LWE12 panel were toured. MCC staff gave the group an introduction to the roof bolting equipment and the continuous miners.

SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

The volume of material in the run-of-mine stockpile, the fines stockpile on the clean coal pad, the temporary fines pile behind the LRP, and the temporary waste pile on the RPE remained very high. Efforts were being made by MCC staff and contractors to transport waste to the RPEE. At the time of the inspection MCC did not have approval from MSHA to place fines on the RPEE, so this material continued to be stored temporarily and blended with clean coal to be shipped when possible.

The lower facilities, including the Train Loadout, and the Sylvester Gulch facilities, including the primary escape way, were included in the tour. Owing to the volume of haul truck traffic it was not possible to visit the RPEE.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 1

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 0

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: Tour group

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 1

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 0



Figure 2: Run-of-mine stockpile



Figure 3: Overview of lower facilities

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Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 0



Figure 4: Clean coal stockpile pad from silo. Fines pile is to the rear.

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