



STATE OF
COLORADO

Jesse - DNR, Todd <todd.jesse@state.co.us>

Deserado Mine, C-1981-018, July 18, 2023 Partial Inspection Report

1 message

Jesse - DNR, Todd <todd.jesse@state.co.us>

Fri, Jul 28, 2023 at 12:15 PM

To: kblunt@deserado.com

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

Good afternoon Kurt,

Attached is the Division's report for the inspection for the Deserado Mine conducted July, 2023. The only maintenance item that I noted was the little bit of contaminated soil by the tanks. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,
Todd Jesse

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Environmental Protection Specialist
Minerals Program, Grand Junction Field Office



2023-07-28_INSPECTION_C1981018.pdf

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COLORADO


Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety

Department of Natural Resources

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: Kurtis Blunt
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) NA	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: July 18, 2023 Inspection Start Time: 10:30 Inspection End Date: July 18, 2023 Inspection End Time: 12:00		Inspection Type: Coal Partial Inspection Inspection Reason: Normal I&E Program Weather: Clear	
Joint Inspection Agency: None		Joint Inspection Contacts: NA	
Post Inspection Agency: None		Post Inspection Contacts: todd.jesse@state.co.us 720 688-0626	
Inspector(s): Todd Jesse	Inspector's Signature: 		Signature Date: 7/28/2023

Inspection Topic Summary

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

N - Air Resource Protection	Y - Roads
N - Availability of Records	N - Reclamation Success
N - Backfill & Grading	N - Revegetation
N - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste	N - Subsidence
N - Explosives	N - Slides and Other Damage
Y - Fish & Wildlife	Y - Support Facilities On-site
Y - Hydrologic Balance	Y - 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 report documents the observations made by the Division during a Coal Partial Inspection of the Deserado Mine on July 18, 2023. The inspection was completed by Todd Jesse of the Division. Kurt Blunt represented Blue Mountain Energy during the inspection. The weather was mostly sunny with temperatures around 85 degrees F. The ground conditions are dry as the snow melt is almost over. Please note that Maintenance Items are listed in this report in **Bold** text. Please provide the Division with photos of the items once they have been completed.

FISH and WILDLIFE – Rule 4.18:

A number of male Red-winged Blackbirds were present around the Last Chance Pond. There were also several small brown birds that could have been female Red-winged Blackbirds or a different species. A Blue Heron was also observed near the Process Water Pond adjacent to the White River when entering the site.

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 DP-1 pond is within the facilities area of the mine site. DP-1 was discharging at the time of the inspection. The embankments of the pond have established vegetation and there was no evidence of instability, displacement, cracking, animal activity, seeps or erosion (Photo 1). The outfall was free of obstructions at the time of the inspection (Photo 2). Mine staff regularly checks the outfall to ensure that vegetation to not obstruct the outfall. The pond is designed to be 6 feet deep, but is filling with sediment. The mine anticipates being able to muck out pond DP-1 in the coming months to regain storage capacity in the pond.

The Last Chance Pond is part of the dewatering system that allows miners to work underground. The pond is part of a passive water treatment system that improves water quality before it is discharged into the environment. At the time of the inspection the pond was not discharging water (Photo 3). The embankment of the

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pond is stable with no burrows, cracks, slumping, seeps, obscuring growth or erosional concerns. There were also a large number of song birds around the pond at the time of the inspection.

The D-Seam dewatering system was not active during the time of the inspection per conversations with the operator. However, the road to access the D-Seam watering system was under construction and the area we were not able to access the dewatering system.

Hydrocarbons are being stored in accordance with best practices. 55 gallon barrels that contain hydrocarbons are being stored on secondary containment in the facilities area near the shops. Barrels are stored on a metal grated platform above a bermed containment (Photo 4). Fuel is stored in double walled tanks near the haul road leaving the facilities area. **There is a small amount of diesel contaminated soil adjacent to the fueling pad (Photo 5). Please remove and dispose of diesel contaminated soil.**

ROADS – Rule 4.03

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

The haul road at the Deserado Mine was well maintained and being sprayed to suppress dust. Ditches and culverts along the main haulage and support roads are clear. Support roads leading to some of the more remote areas of the mine are still undergoing maintenance after the above average snowfall last winter. Roads in the facilities area of the permit are also well maintained and being sprayed for dust suppression. Some of the ditches along roads in the facilities area of the permit boundary are showing minor signs of erosion (Photo 6). This should be monitored and corrected if the erosion increases.

SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

The B Vent Shaft #1 is a vent shaft designed to improve ventilation in the underground workings. The vent shaft is guarded by a chain-link fence to prevent staff and the general public from approaching an open hole. The shaft is also guarded by corrugated tube that reaches roughly 6 feet above ground level. There were no signs of erosion or slumping around the vent shaft pad (Photo 7).

SIGNS AND MARKERS – Rule 4.02:

The mine identification signs are posted on the entrance to the permit boundary on CR-65. The signs displayed the current contact information for the permittee and the Division. The signs also include the assigned DRMS permit number. The ID signs were placed in unobstructed locations and the text was clearly legible (Photo 8).

DOCUMENTS RECEIVED

OTHER (SPECIFY)

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 1

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 0

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: View to the south from embankment of DP-1.



Photo 2: View to the north of DP-1 outfall.

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Photo 3: View to the southeast of Last Chance discharge. Not discharging at time of inspection.



Photo 4: View to the southwest of 55 gallon barrels above secondary containment.

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Photo 5: View to the southwest of fueling station. A small amount of diesel contaminated soil can be seen on the edges of the containment structure.



Photo 6: View to the east of ditch along road in facilities area with minor erosion.

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Photo 7: View to the north of B Vent Shaft #1.



Photo 8: View to the west of Mine ID sign at entrance to permit boundary.

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