



STATE OF
COLORADO

Trujillo - DNR, Zach <zach.trujillo@state.co.us>

Colowyo Mine Inspection Report

1 message

Trujillo - DNR, Zach <zach.trujillo@state.co.us>

Wed, Aug 2, 2023 at 9:03 AM

To: "Tennyson, Tony (Colowyo)" <ttennyson@tristategt.org>

Tony,

Please see the attached inspection report for the Colowyo Mine, C-1981-019. If you have any questions feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

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COLORADO
Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety
Department of Natural Resources

Zach Trujillo
Environmental Protection Specialist

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7-27-23.pdf

1844K

PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1981-019 Mine Name: Colowyo Coal Mine Operator: Colowyo Coal Company L.P. Operator Address: Mr Tony Tennyson 5731 State Highway 13 Meeker, CO 81641	County: Moffat, Rio Blanco Operation Type: Surface Permit Status: Active Ownership: Private
	Operator Representative Present: Tony Tennyson and Juan Garcia
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: July 27, 2023 Inspection Start Time: 07:30 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: None	
Post Inspection Agency: None	Post Inspection Contacts: None	
Inspector(s): Zach Trujillo	Inspector's Signature: 	Signature Date: 8/2/23

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
R - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste
N - Explosives
Y - Fish & Wildlife
R - Hydrologic Balance
R - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan
N - Other
N - Processing Waste

Y - Roads
R - Reclamation Success
Y - Revegetation
N - Subsidence
N - Slides and Other Damage
N - Support Facilities On-site
Y - Signs and Markers
Y - Support Facilities Not On-site
N - Special Categories Of Mining
R - Topsoil

COMMENTS

This was a partial inspection of the Colowyo Mine conducted by Zach Trujillo of Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (DRMS) on July 27, 2023. Juan Garcia and Tony Tennyson representing Colowyo Coal Company (Colowyo) attended the inspection. The weather for inspection was clear with dry ground conditions. High temperatures during the inspection were around 85 degrees. The primary focus of this inspection was topsoil depth verification for areas proposed for Phase II Bond Release under the SL-22 application. For more information regarding SL-22, please refer to the Topsoil section of this report.

EXCESS SPOIL and DEVELOPMENT WASTE – Rule 4.09

Placement; Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization:

Spoil placement continues along the Collom Spoil Pile as mining continues in the Collom Pit. Dragline spoil ridges were observed southwest of the pit.

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:

East Pit

The Final East Pit Ditch was inspected from stock pond EP 2 to the intersection with the South Collection Ditch. The ditch remains in need of repair from the 2022 storm event however no additional cutting can occur as the previous cutting has reached bed rock. Water was held in EP1 and EP2 however no flows were occurring. The Final East Pit Ditch remains in an unchanged condition and successfully directs all surface runoff to the South Collection Ditch. The Final East Pit Ditch is scheduled for repair after the construction of Section 15 Pond and Ditch. The South Collection Ditch remains stable with no issues.



Final East Pit Ditch – Reach 2.

Currently, Colowyo is constructing the Section 15 Ditch and Section 15 Pond which was approved with TR-158. The new ditch and pond will help collect surface runoff upslope from the Final East Pit Ditch and relieve some of the surface flows that are currently flow to it. Colowyo representative stated that after the construction of Section 15 Ditch and Pond, that the maintenance to the Final East Pit Ditch will be conducted along with the additional stock tanks that were approved under TR-158.

The Streeter and Prospect Pond were inspected from Highway 13. Both ponds remain stable. The Streeter Pond is scheduled for future cleaning this year as stated by the mine representative.

West Pit

The upper portion of East Taylor Ditch was inspected and no issues were observed. During the last inspection, surface flows through the lower portion of the East Taylor Ditch had caused cutting to occur near the intersection with Taylor Ditch. While this portion of the ditch was not inspected during the inspection, discussions with the mine representative stated that this portion of the ditch was repaired. The upper portion of the Taylor Ditch was also inspected with no issues observed.

Collom Pit

Section 25, Middle and Section 36 Ponds were inspected. Each pond held water with Section 25 and Section 36 discharging. No issues were observed.

GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE:

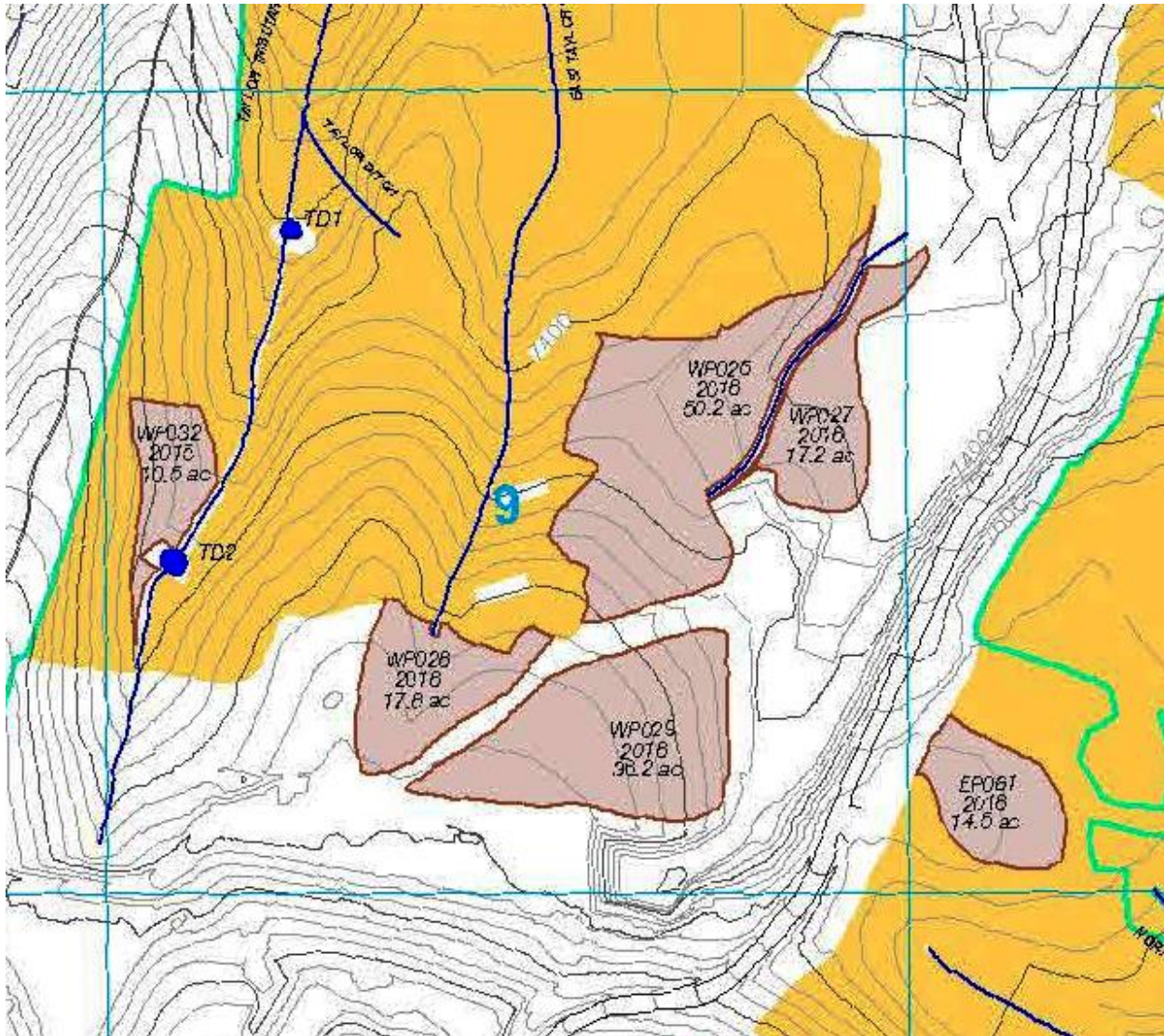
Mining activities have been completed in the South Taylor Pit. The highwall miner has been transported back to the Collom Pit. The highwall miner was not active during the inspection and the last associated mining activity occurred in Little Collom Gulch along the eastern slope.

Truck and shovel operations were active in the main Collom Pit area. Truck and shovel operations continue depth advancement after coal extraction in preparation for highwall mining along the northern and southern highwalls. The dragline has been moved above the southern highwall for spoil removal above the upper coal seam. Spoil ridges can be observed along the southwestern portion of the highwall.

RECLAMATION SUCCESS - Rule 4.15, Rule 3:

The following reclamation parcels were inspected:

Parcel	Total Acres	Reclaimed
EP061	14.5	2018
WP026	50.2	2018
WP027	17.2	2018
WP028	17.8	2018
WP029	38.2	2018
WP032	10.5	2015
Total	148.4	



SL-22 reclamation parcel location map.

These parcels are associated with the requested Phase II Bond Release under SL-22. Each of the parcels were well vegetated with no visible erosion.



WP026.



WP027.



WP028.



WP029.



WP032.

TOPSOIL – Rule 4.06

Removal 4.06.2; Substitute Materials 4.06.4(4); Storage and Protection 4.06.3; Redistribution 4.06.4:

New topsoil stripping operations were occurring along the disturbance footprint of the Section 15 Ditch and Pond. The topsoil was actively being transported and placed along Topsoil Pile 16D located just south of the East Pit.

Since placement was still occurring, the new topsoil addition has yet to be shaped and seeded. Topsoil Pile 16D is fully surrounded by a containment berm to ensure topsoil is maintained within the pile footprint.



Topsoil stripping from Section 15 Pond.



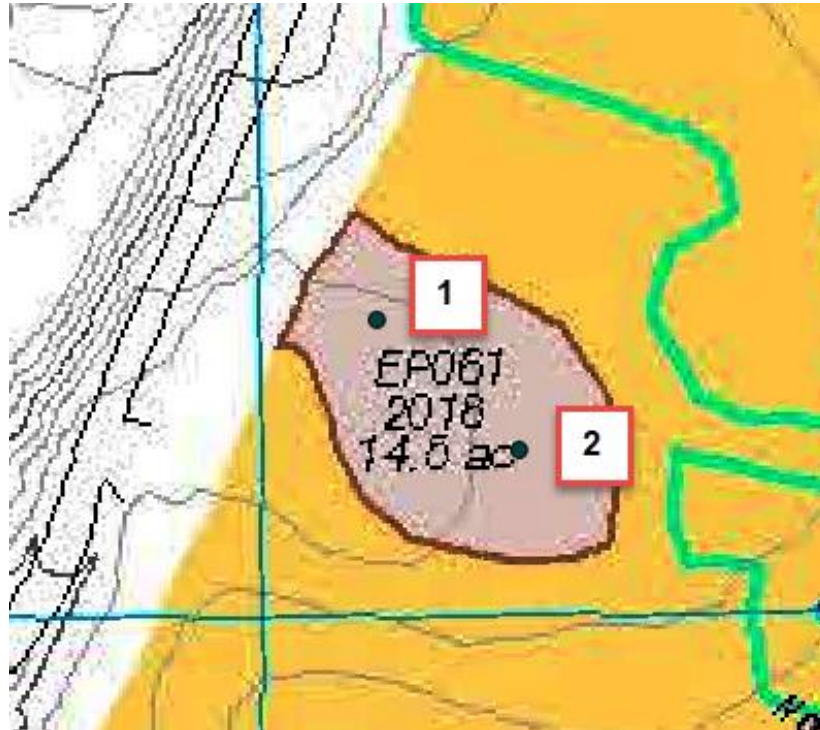
Topsoil placement on 16D from Section 15 Pond.

Per Volume 1, Section 2.05.4, Colowyo is approved for variable topsoil replacement depth for post-2010 reclamation and is directly tied to the post- mine land uses, grazeland and wildlife habitat as presented in Section 2.05.5 of the PAP. For grazeland (areas with slopes greater than 10%), thinner topsoil (~6”) will be replaced on ridge tops, and topsoil depth with gradually thicken moving down the slopes towards the drainage bottoms. In wildlife habitat (flatter areas with less than 10% slopes), topsoil replacement depth will target an average of four inches, with a more uniform application depth. Based on the approved Colowyo Mine Map 17 - Pre-mining and Post-mining Land Use, topsoil depth will be compared to the requirements for grazeland (rangeland per Map 17) for the associated SL-22 reclamation parcels.

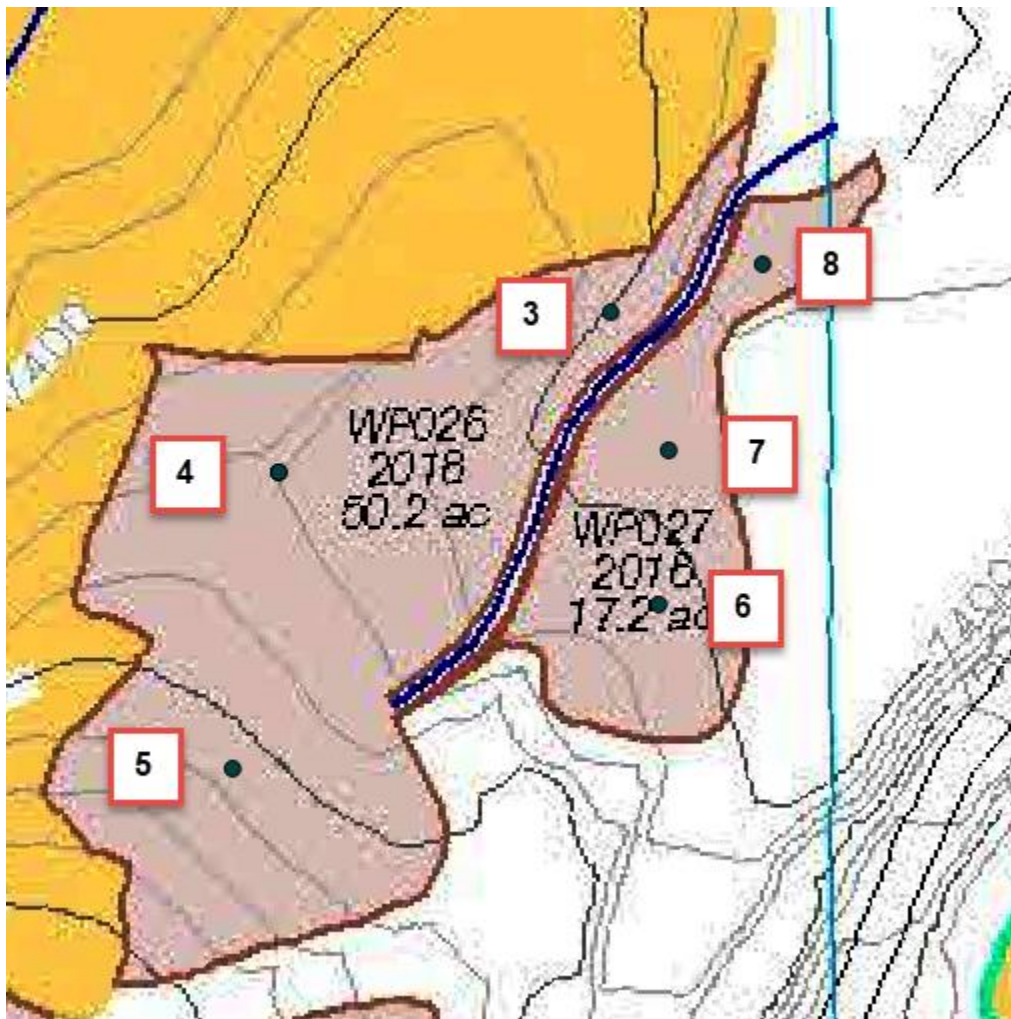
As noted earlier in this reports Summary, topsoil depth verification holes were dug in preparation for Phase II Bond Release inspection for the SL-22 application. Each parcel was walked to random locations in which holes were dug until soil profiles changed from topsoil to spoil. The depths of topsoil for each hole was then measured and documented. The following table and figures are associated to the topsoil verification holes dug during the inspection:

Parcel	Hole #	Depth (in)
EP061	1	6
	2	5
WP026	3	9
	4	7
	5	6
WP027	6	7
	7	9
	8	10
WP028	9	7
	10	6
WP029	11	6
	12	6
	13	8

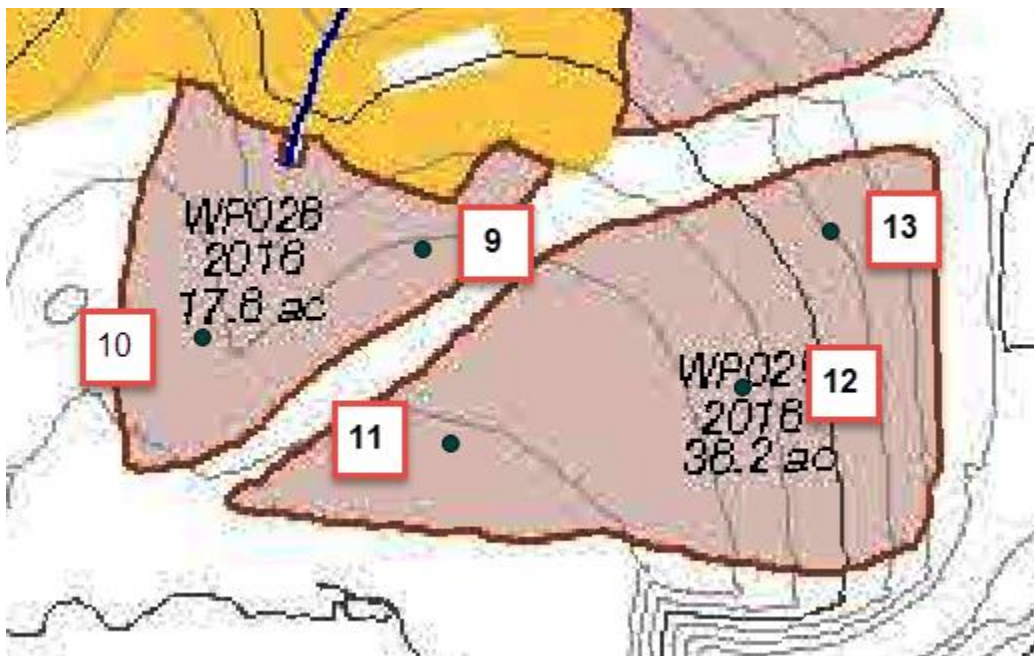
WP032	14	9
	15	6



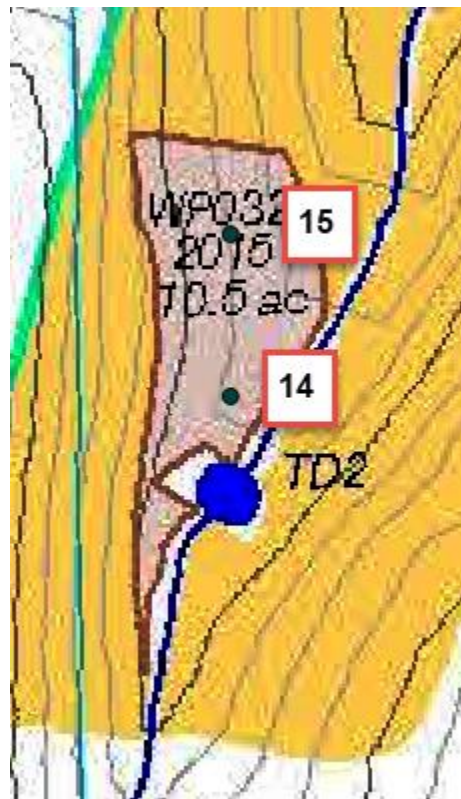
EP061.



WP026 and WP027.



WP028 and WP029.



WP032.



Topsoil verification hole.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

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