



STATE OF  
COLORADO

Reilley - DNR, Robin <robin.reilley@state.co.us>

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## 2023 August Complete Inspection Trapper Mine

1 message

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**Reilley - DNR, Robin** <robin.reilley@state.co.us>

Fri, Aug 18, 2023 at 11:45 AM

To: Graham Roberts <graham.roberts@trappermine.com>, Robin Reilley - DNR <robin.reilley@state.co.us>

Good Afternoon Graham,

Please find the 2023 August DRMS inspection report for Trapper Mine. This was a complete inspection.

I'm available to answer any questions.

Thank you,

Robin Reilley, M.S. GISP  
Environmental Protection Specialist II



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

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**Insp\_Complete\_Trapper\_2023\_08August.pdf**

4384K




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

**16 August 2023**

PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C1981010 Mine Name: Trapper Mine Operator: Trapper Mining, Inc. Operator Address:  Mr. Graham Roberts P.O. Box 187 Craig, CO 81626	County: Moffat Operation Type: Surface Permit Status: Active Ownership: Federal
	Operator Representative Present: Graham Roberts
This report was issued electronically from the Divisions' Denver Office.	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: <b>16 August 2023</b> Inspection Start Time: 8:15 a.m. Inspection End Date: <b>16 August 2023</b> Inspection End Time: 5:30 p.m.	Inspection Type: <b>Coal Complete Inspection</b> Inspection Reason: Normal I&E Program Weather: Clear
Joint Inspection Agency:	Joint Inspection Contacts:
Post Inspection Agency: None	Post Inspection Contacts:
Inspector(s): Robin A. Reilley, M.S. GISP	Inspector's Signature:  Signature Date: <b>18 August 2023</b>

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 1

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1

Inspection Topic Summary	
NOTE: Y=Inspected N=Not Inspected R=Comments Noted V=Violation Issued NA=Not Applicable	
Y - Air Resource Protection	R - Roads
R - Availability of Records	Y - Reclamation Success
R - Backfill & Grading	R - Revegetation
NA - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste	Y - Subsidence
R - Explosives	Y - Slides and Other Damage
R - Fish & Wildlife	R - Support Facilities On-site
R - Hydrologic Balance	R - Signs and Markers
R - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan	NA - Support Facilities Not On-site
NA - Other	NA - Special Categories Of Mining
NA - Processing Waste	R - Topsoil

### COMMENTS

This was a complete inspection of the Trapper Mine; permit C1981010, operated by Trapper Mining Inc. The inspection was conducted and the report and photos prepared by me, Robin Reilley of the DRMS. Graham Roberts, Trapper Mine representative was present throughout the inspection. Skies were clear with a breeze in the afternoon. Temperatures ranged between 65 and 75 degrees Fahrenheit.

#### *PERMITTING ACTIONS in PROGRESS:*

#### *MAINTENANCE ITEMS IDENTIFIED*

- *Vegetation at spillway inlet at East Middle Flume Pond requires removal.*

#### *OUTSTANDING MAINTENANCE*

- *Sediment fans in ponds require dredging. This was occurring at the time of inspection.*
- *Dozer basins require dredging and reconstruction. Dredging was occurring at the time of inspection.*
- *Constructed drainages (MF, MF3 and MF2) require stabilization repairs.*
- *Dozer basin above East Middle Flume Pond requires reestablishment.*
- *Fencing and delineation of the new permitted boundary at the west panel is outstanding (PR11).*

The operator committed to performing the above required maintenance over the course of the 2023 field season.

#### *MAINTENANCE COMPLETED*

*The following ponds have been dredged:*

- *Middle Pyeatt #1*

### ***INSPECTION***

#### *GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE:*

Activities in the L, N, C, D, I and J Pits were observed and appear to be progressing as permitted. As it was a dry warm day particulate from stripping, hauling and truck and loader operations was airborne. Increased watering to mitigate airborne particulate at active areas of the mine was needed at the time of inspection. A call for a water truck had gone out during the course of the inspection. At the time of inspection the Molly Braun drag line and the Baby Doe were idle in the L Pit. The Queen Ann was also idle at the I Pit. Blasting was observed in L Pit.

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L pit overburden was being truck and loader excavated and hauled from the pit at the time of inspection. The N Pit high wall miner was working on the north high wall; once completed the miner will move to the south high wall. Overburden at east end of the pit requires relocation to the pit's west end in order to open the pit to east.

The topsoil pile east of I Pit Middle is scheduled for relocation and application to I Pit East in the next few days. This area constitutes approximately 20 acres and was included as part of the 2023 reclamation plan. The goal is to include I Pit east in an autumn 2023 phase I bond release. A blast was set up in I Pit Middle.

J Pit is still damp in areas. The pit has been dug down to coal and mining will begin soon. The coal dips severely to the north.

D pit work was underway on lower portion of the pit placing a constructed drainage to tie into an existing drainage to the west. Soil was being layed down along east edge at the terminus of D Pit to establish the channel. Ripping and grading the topsoil haul road at upper south area of D Pit used to transport topsoil to the pit was occurring at the time of inspection.

The lower north end of C Pit is partially stripped for placement of a spoil dump, haul roads and ramps. Stripping was occurring at the time of inspection. A portion of the required power line for C Pit operations has been relocated and is in place. Operations were raising dust at the time of inspection.

The south top portion of the Ash Pit surface comprised loose ash. Operators are in the process of dozing off the surface to the desired final elevation. The remainder of the Ash Pit comprised a surface well compacted, in good repair and functioning adequately at the time of inspection. No ruts or standing water were observed at the time of inspection.

#### *ROADS – Rule 4.03*

*Construction 4.03.1(3) I 4.03.2(3); Drainage 4.03.1(4) I 4.03.2(4); Surfacing and Maintenance 4.03.1(5) and (6) I 4.03.2(5) and (6); Reclamation 4.03.1(7) I 4.03.2(7)*

- Main haul roads were in good repair.
- Access roads were in adequate condition and provided access to the entire site.
- Ditches along haul roads and access roads appeared to be functioning adequately.

#### *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; Drainage- Acid and Toxic Materials 4.05.8; Impoundments 4.05.6, 4.05.9; Stream Buffer Zones 4.05.18*

Pond banks were stable and vegetated. Spillways were in good repair and clear with the exception of East Middle Flume Pond spillway. Flumes were functioning properly and dams were stable, vegetated with no signs of seepage. Coyote Pond and Jeffway Pond were viewed from a distance and both held water. East Buzzard Pond # 3 is nearing completion. Both ponds under construction in the Buzzard drainage have ground water exposed.

The following pond systems were visited over the course of the inspection:

1. Flume
2. Pyeat

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- East Middle Flume #1, located below the dragline stationed in L Pit was discharging through the primary spillway and was experiencing inflow from a spring. A sediment fan is present at the inflow.
- Middle Flume Pond #3 held water and exhibited a sediment fan.
- The sump above Middle Flume#3 had caught significant sediment and was being dredged at the time of inspection.
- East Pyeatt Pond #1 had been pumped down and water was being diverted downstream to next pond. The pond will be dredged once dredging of the dozer basin above Middle Flume #3 is complete.
- East Pyeatt #2 exhibited a small delta at the inlet. The pond was discharging at the time of inspection.
- East Pyeatt Pond #3 was discharging clear water. The pond is spring fed and the drainage tends to support various aquatic plants.
- Middle Pyeatt #1 was holding turbid water and had been dredged.
- East Flume #1 Pond held a puddle.

#### *TOPSOIL – RULE 4.06*

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

- No instability or riling were noted on the observed topsoil piles. Topsoil piles are vegetated, with vegetation a verdant green.
- Piles appeared to be marked appropriately.
- Topsoil was stockpiled at the Buzzard Gulch ponds currently under construction.

#### *USE of EXPLOSIVES – Rule 4.08*

*General Requirements 4.08.1; Pre blasting survey 4.08.2; Public Notice of Blasting Schedule 4.08.3;*

*Surface Blasting Requirements 4.08.4; Records of Blasting for Surface Coal Mining 4.08.5;*

*Seismographic Measurements 4.08.6d stripping*

- Two parting shots in L pit were observed. All notifications were clearly audible.
- Blasting records were checked. Records for July and August had not yet been filed, but were available for inspection.
- Blasting explosive permit is in extension (records check)
- Temporary seismographs are in place

#### *BACKFILL and GRADING – RULE 4.14*

- Reclamation consists of benched overburden hauls in L Pit awaiting grading, and is an ongoing activity at Trapper Mine
- Regrading activities were not noted as occurring in L Pit at the time of inspection.
- Portions of D Pit were undergoing regrading at the time o f inspection.

#### *REVEGETATION - Rule 4.15*

*General Requirements 4.15.1; Use of Species 4.15.2, Grazing 4.15.5*

- Reclamation comprised of topsoil and seeding was not occurring at the time of inspection.
- Vegetation was beginning to dry out and loose its verdant green color. Chamisa was just beginning to bloom.
- A 40 acre area adjacent to D Pit was monitored for vegetation cover and diversity. The area abuts Phase III reclamation and appears of similar diversity exhibiting good cover. No erosional features were noted, ditches have stabilized with vegetation. A couple of dozer basins were noted and appeared stable with adequate vegetation. The area comprises mostly wheat grasses and alfalfa. Minimal weeds were present.

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*FISH and WILDLIFE– RULE 4.18*

Wildlife sightings included a selection of waterfowl, red and white tailed hawks, ravens, and buzzards.

*SIGNS and MARKERS – Rule 4.02*

- The mine site identification signs observed at the main mine access point, (entrance from State Highway 13), was intact, displaying all required information: mine name, operator name, address, phone number, DRMS permit number and contact information.
- Blasting notification signs were placed at the entrances to the site.
- The new portion of the permit boundary (PR11), had not yet been delineated or fenced.
- Pond identification signs were prominently displayed in the vicinity of the ponds visited and were in adequate repair at the time of inspection.
- Topsoil stockpiles observed were clearly marked with identifying signs.

*INSPECTION, ENFORCEMENT and CIVIL PENALTIES – RULE 5**Inspections 5.02; Availability of Records*

Permit documents were inspected and the following item require a response from the operator:

- Certification of ATFE explosives permit (in progress). The operator agreed to provide DRMS with a letter from ATFE permitting.

*DOCUMENTS RECEIVED*

None

*ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE*

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

*PHOTOGRAPHS*

*Photo 1: Mine identification sign at main entrance.*



*Photo 2: Blasting information at main entrance.*

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*Photo 3: East Pyeatt #1 Pond, pumped down and slated for dredging.*



*Photo 4: Middle Pyeatt #1 Pond, recently dredged.*

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*Photo 5: Dozer basin along main haul road undergoing dredging.*



*Photo 6: J Pit floor looking west at significant dipping surface.*

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*Photo 7: East Middle Flume Pond, exhibiting inflow from spring.*



*Photo 8: Jeffway Pond from above looking east.*

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*Photo 9: D Pit ripping and grading topsoil haul road.*



*Photo 10: Overview of vegetation comprising a 40 acre area east of D Pit grading and adjacent to phase III released acreage to the east.*

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*Photo 11: Dense D Pit vegetation comprised mostly of wheat grasses and alfalfa.*

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*Photo 12: Blast set up in I Pit Middle.*



*Photo 13: Solvent storage area, with barrel lids sealed.*

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*Photo 14: C Pit stripping activities, looking southwest.*

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**AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS**

<b>PERMIT RECORDS</b>		<b>HYDROLOGIC RECORDS</b>	
DRMS Permit	Exp. 12/31/2027	NPDES Permit	OK
Permit Application w/Revisions	Yes	NPDES Records	OK
Findings Document	RN8	Stormwater Management Plan	NA
Insurance Certificate	Exp. 1/2024	SPCC Plan	2012 July updated
Bond Document	OK	MSHA Pond Inspections	2023 Aug
Phased Bond Release Documents/Findings	SL23	State Engineer's Pond Inspection	
Air Emission Permits	OK	Quarterly Pond Inspections	2023 Q2
County Special Use Permits	OK	Annual Hydrology Reports	2022
Mining Landowner Notification	NA	• Ground Water Monitoring	Yes
Subsidence Monitoring Reports	NA	• Surface Water Monitoring	Yes
Subsidence Monitoring Data	NA	• Spring & Seep Monitoring	Yes
Rill & Gully Survey	NA	• Mine Water Discharge Monitoring	Yes
Vegetation Monitoring Data	SL22	• Mine Inflow Study	NA
Specific Variance Approvals	NA	• Water Consumption Records	Yes
Annual Reclamation Reports	2022	Well Permits	Yes
Midterm Review Documents	MT7		
DRMS/OSM Inspection Reports/Enforcement Actions (3 Years)	OK	<b>BLASTING RECORDS</b>	
Transfers/Succession of Operator	NA	Blasting Publication	Feb 2023
Temporary Cessation Notification	NA	Blasting Records (3 years)	Yes
Reclamation Cost Estimate	RN8 App A Vol V.	ATFE Explosives Permit	In extension
<b>CERTIFICATIONS</b>		Blasting Variances	NA
Pond Certifications	App Q sect XVI	Pre-Blast Surveys	Drawer 3
Annual Certifications for Impoundments	July 2023		
Fill Certifications for Excess Spoil or Underground Development Waste	2022 Q2	<b>ADDITIONAL RECORDS (specify)</b>	
• Quarterly Inspections	2023 Q2	County Ash Disposal	Book 2 Forrest
• Compaction Testing	NA	Certificate of annual calibration for seismographs per Rule 4.08.5	BE9777 back up. BE21644 UM8395 Getting calibrated
• Final Certification	NA		
Coal Processing Waste Banks	NA		
Haul Road Certifications	OK		
Access Road Certifications	*3		
COMMENTS: NPDES permit: CO 00032115 renewed in 2020			
*2 Permit 11 MF523-1 (Mining and Ash Disposal), C-11,253(Coal Stockpile-not used)			
*3 Map M52 is part of certification. Highlighted items require attention.			

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