



STATE OF
COLORADO

Ridley - DNR, Hunter <hunter.ridley@state.co.us>

Inspection Report, Foidel Creek Mine, C-1982-056

1 message

Ridley - DNR, Hunter <hunter.ridley@state.co.us>

Tue, Aug 29, 2023 at 7:41
AM

To: "Kawcak, Miranda" <mkawcak@peabodyenergy.com>

Miranda,

Please see attached the Division's report for the August inspection of the Foidel Creek Mine, Permit No. C-1982-056. Let me know if you have any questions.

Kind regards,
Hunter Ridley (she/her/hers)
Environmental Protection Specialist



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

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COLORADO


Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety

Department of Natural Resources

PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1982-056 Mine Name: Foidel Creek Mine Operator: Twentymile Coal, LLC Operator Address: Ms Miranda Kawcak 29515 Routt County Road No. 27 Oak Creek, CO 80467	County: Routt Operation Type: Underground Permit Status: Active Ownership: Private
	Operator Representative Present: Miranda Kawcak
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) Miranda Kawcak	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: August 23, 2023 Inspection Start Time: 8:30 AM Inspection End Date: August 23, 2023 Inspection End Time: 11:30 AM		Inspection Type: Coal Partial Inspection Inspection Reason: Normal I&E Program Weather: Clear	
Joint Inspection Agency:		Joint Inspection Contacts:	
Post Inspection Agency: None		Post Inspection Contacts:	
Inspector(s): Hunter Ridley	Inspector's Signature: 		Signature Date: August 29, 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

Y - Backfill & Grading

R - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

N - Explosives

R - Fish & Wildlife

R - Hydrologic Balance

R - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Other

N - Processing Waste

R - Roads

R - Reclamation Success

R - Revegetation

N - Subsidence

N - Slides and Other Damage

N - Support Facilities On-site

R - Signs and Markers

N - Support Facilities Not On-site

N - Special Categories Of Mining

R - Topsoil

COMMENTS

This was a partial inspection of the Foidel Creek Mine; DRMS Permit No. C-1982-056, operated by Twentymile Coal, LLC. (TC). This inspection was conducted by Hunter Ridley with the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety (Division). Miranda Kawcak of TC accompanied the inspection. **Please address the Bold items below.**

A proposed decision to approve RN-08 was sent on 8/4/2023. If no public comment is received, RN-08 will be issued no later than 9/13/2023.

SIGNS AND MARKERS—Rule 4.02

Mine identification markers were observed throughout the site (Photo 1). All information for compliance was present.

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):

Haul roads across the site are well maintained and water trucks were noted in the main facilities area. MR322 was issued by the Division on 10/25/2022 and approved the relocation of an internal road. The construction of this new road continues in the 6MN area (Photo 16). Large hay bales originally placed in this same area to improve visibility issues in the winter months will remain in place to block noise from the vent for nearby neighbors.

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:

Main Facilities Area

Underground pumps at Pond D were currently shut off. Thus, water levels at this pond system were low (Photos 10 and 11). Main facilities ponds were checked for discharge and culverts were inspected for function (Photos 5-

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7). Continue to clean out culverts when vegetation and sediment hinders function. Buffer zone signs for Foidel Creek were in place throughout the main facilities area (Photo 9).

The stoker coal loadout facility has not yet been sealed following a note made in a DRMS inspection report last Fall which pointed out that this wash plant facility was leaking water and causing sediment erosion behind the building (Photos 2). The Operator stated that as of the date of this inspection the building is scheduled to be sealed. The Division's jurisdiction on this item lies in the protection of nearby Foidel Creek. Therefore, the Division is most concerned with the proper use of best management practices (BMPs) in this area. Straw bales and ditches are currently being utilized behind the stoker loadout building to control leaking water. However, the downhill silt fence will need to be replaced (Photo 3) and erosion on the southwestern side of the stoker loadout facility area will need to be addressed with an appropriate BMP (Photo 4). **The Division has given until September 30, 2023 for TC to accomplish the installation and maintenance of BMPs in this area. Please provide the Division with photo documentation that this has been completed. Failure to complete this corrective action by the deadline will result in enforcement action.**

Water from the stoker building wash plant will continue to report to Pond E once the building is sealed. The small amount of additional water which sealing the wash plant will cause Pond E to capture is not anticipated to surpass the designed capacity of Pond E as this pond is rarely at enough capacity to discharge water.

A few small coal spills were noted around the stoker loadout area. Please keep this area clean of coal spills.

All ponds across the site are still scheduled to be cleaned this year. Several ponds around the main facilities area will need to be included in this annual cleaning to maintain proper function (Photo 8).

6MN Area

Facilities in the 6MN area were noted to be functioning properly and as usual (Photo 21). The weather station set up near the 6MN Reservoir was still present. A fence has been put up to protect this equipment from grazing cattle.

A water valve was in the process of being repaired in the 6MN area (Photo 17). Damage to this water valve created no major issues with water across the site.

Passive Water Treatment Facility

The Passive Water Treatment Facility area was noted to be functioning well by the Operator. Ponds were much more thickly grown with filtering vegetation since the last inspection and water was activity discharging into the system of ponds (Photos 18-20).

TOPSOIL – Rule 4.06

Topsoil piles around the main facilities and 6MN area were checked for proper vegetation, stability, and appropriate markers. All piles are properly vegetated and free of disturbance.

EXCESS SPOIL AND DEV. WASTE – Rule 4.09 Placement; Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization:

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Compaction of refuse material piled throughout the winter continues throughout the summer. Drainage is functioning properly in this area with no standing water atop the pit. The third lift is still under construction. Clay overburden material will be taken from the southern portion of the refuse area to cover the pile before adding topsoil from the nearby stockpile to the northeast. Eventually, this refuse face will be built up to meet the ridge of the adjacent, older refuse pile (Photo 12).

Compaction reports are conducted quarterly. As per the last inspection request (dated April 25, 2023), the Division received the most recent compaction report (1st Q 2023) and the compaction report prior to that (4th Q 2022). These were received May 10, 2023. Before this submittal, the last noted compaction report received by the Division was for the 4th Quarter 2016. **In order to complete the public record, please submit all missing compaction reports through e-permitting from 1st Quarter 2017 to 3rd Quarter 2022 to the Division and continue to submit these reports on a timely basis.**

RECLAMATION SUCCESS and REVEGETATION - Rule 4.15, Rule 3:

Continue to maintain fences and cattle guards during summer months to keep cattle from disturbing topsoil piles and other sensitive areas throughout the site.

PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES – Rule 4.18:

Various water fowl were in consistent use of many of the ponds around the main facilities area.

GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE:

Ongoing Maintenance Items:

- Protect topsoil piles from cattle
- Spray weeds and Reseed the waste pile topsoil pile
- Seal support building near Wash Plant (2023)

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: Mine sign identification at site entrance.



Photo 2: Three ditches and hay bales capture water and sediment leaking from the stoker loadout building to avoid runoff into Foidel Creek.

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Photo 3: Silt fence behind the stoker loadout building which is in need of repair.



Photo 4: Sediment on the SW side of the stoker loadout facility is eroding towards Foidel Creek. This area requires additional BMPs to be in compliance.

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Photo 5: View SE of the refuse pile, coal conveyor belt, and Pond D discharge.



Photo 6: Weir at Pond D discharge, cattails provide additional water filtration.

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Photo 7: Discharge and water sample collection point for Ponds B.



Photo 8: Northernmost pond at Ponds B.

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Photo 9: Buffer zone signs are in place for Foidel Creek near Ponds B.



Photo 10: Southern side of Pond D, water levels are currently low.

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Photo 11: Northern side of Pond D, waterfowl were in use of the area.



Photo 12: Photo atop the refuse pile looking west.

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Photo 13: Pond F, not discharging.



Photo 14: Storage facilities near Pond G.

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Photo 15: Pond G, not discharging.



Photo 16: Construction continues of the new internal haul road in the 6MN area.

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Photo 17: A water valve was being replaced in the 6MN area.



Photo 18: Passive Water Treatment Facility, view west.

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Photo 19: Passive Water Treatment Facility, view north.



Photo 20: Passive Water Treatment Facility, view northeast.

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Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 0



Photo 21: View east of the 6MN Reservoir.

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