



STATE OF
COLORADO

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

Inspection Report, Peabody Sage Creek Mine, C-2009-087

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 Peabody Sage Creek Mine, Permit No. C-2009-087. 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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SageCreek_Aug_CC.pdf
3694K



PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-2009-087 Mine Name: Peabody Sage Creek Mine Operator: Peabody Sage Creek Mining, LLC Operator Address: Ms Mirdanda Kawcak 29515 Routt County Road 27 Oak Creek, CO 80467	County: Routt Operation Type: Underground Permit Status: Temporary Cessation Ownership: Private
	Operator Representative Present: Miranda Kawcak
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) 	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: August 23, 2023 Inspection Start Time: 12:00 Inspection End Date: August 23, 2023 Inspection End Time: 13:00		Inspection Type: Coal Complete 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): Hunter Ridley	Inspector's Signature: <i>Hunter Ridley</i>		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

R - Availability of Records

N - Backfill & Grading

N - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

N - Explosives

N - Fish & Wildlife

R - Hydrologic Balance

R - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Other

N - Processing Waste

R - Roads

N - Reclamation Success

N - Revegetation

N - Subsidence

N - Slides and Other Damage

R - 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 complete inspection of the Peabody Sage Creek Mine; DRMS Permit No. C-2009-087, operated by Peabody Sage Creek Mining, LLC. This inspection was conducted by Hunter Ridley with the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division). The Sage Creek Mine is an inactive non-producing mine currently in Temporary Cessation since 2017. TC representative Miranda Kawcak was present at the time of the inspection and at the records check at the Foidel Creek Mine. **Please address the Bold items below.**

Midterm No. 3 (MT3) was issued by the Division on February 16, 2023. The surety increase associated with this Midterm Review has been submitted to and accepted by the Division.

AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS – Rule 5.02.4(1):

Records were checked at the mine office. See details at the end of report. **Please update the bolded / highlighted items marked ‘update’.**

SIGNS AND MARKERS—Rule 4.02

Mine identification markers were observed throughout the site. Previously illegible sign information which was noted in the May 2, 2023 inspection report has been added to mine signage (Photo 1). A scale, scale house, and office buildings are near the site entrance (Photo 3).

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:

All ponds at the site were discharging at the time of inspection (Photos 2, 7, 10-12). NPDES #7, located by the site’s main office buildings (Photo 4), was also discharging.

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):

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 0

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1

Spring season flooding events caused erosional damage to Road B and portal Road F. Repair of these erosional features has been completed. All other haul roads were well maintained.

Mine water and snowmelt is no longer being continually pumped at the portal entrance (Photos 8). Instead, there is currently a float system in place which automatically turns on pumps when needed at the portal entry.

A dam is located between two ponds near the portal entries (Photo 13). The southernmost pond acts as a sump for mine water. The northernmost pond is Pond 002 and is the site of the previous surface mine's high wall which has been filled in. Two culverts also lead to Pond 002 which brings water from Little Grassy Creek, into Pond 002, and towards the natural drainage into Big Grassy Creek.

SUPPORT FACILITIES – Rule 4.04:

As this site is in temporary cessation, many of the on-site support facilities are unused. This includes storage buildings, a water tank located along Road B, and other unused storage areas (Photo 6). An office building in this area has recently collapsed. Debris in this area has been cleared (Photo 5).

TOPSOIL— Rule 4.06 Removal 4.06.2; Substitute Materials 4. 06.4(4); Storage and Protection 4. 06. 3; Redistribution 4. 06.4:

There is one large topsoil pile onsite located adjacent to the Pecoco pond (Photo 9). The pile appears stable, well vegetated and undisturbed. A small, orange flag marks this pile as topsoil.

GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE:

Ongoing maintenance issues from previous inspection:

- The ditch around the portal area needs to be cleared of cattail growth to maintain proper drainage in the area
- Additional disturbance markers are recommended.
- Trash screen at Pond 003 needs to be cleared.
- Monitor the pipe below Pond 002 for leakage or blowout.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

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

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 0

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: Mine identification at site entrance.



Photo 2: Pond 003 near the site entrance. Cattle grazing occurs around this area.

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Photo 3: View north of the office building and scale/scale house.



Photo 4: NPDES #7, discharging slightly.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 0

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1



Photo 5: Debris from a building which had previously collapsed has been cleared.



Photo 6: Storage located in the mostly unused main facilities area.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 0

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1



Photo 7: Pond 002, view south.



Photo 8: Portal entries, a float system located at this site of pumping.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 0

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1



Photo 9: Topsoil pile located to the south.



Photo 10: Upper sump located in the southern facilities area.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 0

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1



Photo 11: Pecoco Pond, view southwest.



Photo 12: View from atop Haul Road D of Pecoco Pond.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 0

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1



Photo 13: View west from Haul Road E-1 of Pond 002 and the mine water sump.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 0

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1

AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS**PERMIT RECORDS**

DRMS Permit	Exp 8/20/25
Permit Application w/Revisions	MR 27 - 19
Findings Document	RN2
Insurance Certificate	Exp 8/1/24
Bond Document	CS
Phased Bond Release	SL4
Documents/Findings	
Air Emission Permits	Issued 9/4/2012 (Aug 2017, APEN update Exp 2023)
County Special Use Permits	2/9/16 Exp 2026
UG Mining Landowner Notification	2/29/2011
Subsidence Monitoring Reports	2 & 3rd Q 2012
Subsidence Monitoring Data	2 & 3rd Q 2012
Rill & Gully Survey	June 2018
Vegetation Monitoring Data	2014
Specific Variance Approvals	NA
Annual Reclamation Reports	2019
Midterm Review Documents	Update with Feb 2023 MT3
DRMS/OSM Inspection	Oct 2020
Reports/Enforcement Actions (3 Years)	
Transfers/Succession of Operator	SO1
Temporary Cessation Notification	Jan 2017
Reclamation Cost Estimate	RN1
CERTIFICATIONS	
Pond Certifications	PAP Ex. 2
Annual Certifications for Impoundments	3 Q 2022
Fill Certifications for Excess Spoil or Underground Development Waste	NA
• Quarterly Inspections	NA
• Compaction Testing	NA
• Final Certification	NA
Coal Processing Waste Banks	NA
Haul Road Certifications	PAP
Access Road Certifications	PAP

HYDROLOGIC RECORDS

NPDES Permit	Exp Dec 2020 Update
NPDES Records	Online LF
Stormwater Management Plan	Dec 2013
SPCC Plan	Sept. 19, 2014
MSHA Pond Inspections	NA
State Engineer's Pond Inspection	3 Q 2022
Quarterly Pond Inspections	3 Q 2022
Annual Hydrology Reports	Online LF
• Ground Water Monitoring	AHR
• Surface Water Monitoring	AHR
• Spring & Seep Monitoring	AHR
• Mine Water Discharge Monitoring	NA
• Mine Inflow Study	NA
• Water Consumption Records	NE
Well Permits	Online LF

BLASTING RECORDS

Blasting Publication	NA
Blasting Records (3 years)	NA
ATFE Explosives Permit	Exp. 2019
Blasting Variances	NA
Pre-Blast Surveys	NA

**ADDITIONAL RECORDS
(specify)**

COMMENTS:

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 Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1