



STATE OF
COLORADO

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

Trapper Mine 2023 September Inspection Report

1 message

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

Thu, Sep 14, 2023 at 1:47 PM

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

Good Afternoon Graham,

Please find DRMS's 2023 September inspection report for Trapper Mine. This was a partial 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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COLORADO
 Division of Reclamation,
 Mining and Safety
 Department of Natural Resources

12 September 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: 12 Sept. 2023 Inspection Start Time: 9:00 a.m. Inspection End Date: 12 Sept. 2023 Inspection End Time: 4:15 p.m.	Inspection Type: Coal Partial Inspection Inspection Reason: Normal I&E Weather: Clear
Joint Inspection Agency:	Joint Inspection Contacts:
Post Inspection Agency: None	Post Inspection Contacts:
Inspector(s): Robin A. Reilley, M.S. GISP Patrick Lennberg	Inspector's Signature:  Signature Date: 14 September 2023

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 2

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
N - 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 partial 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 and Patrick Lennberg of DRMS were present throughout the inspection. No hydrologic or air quality issues were detected at the time of inspection, although at the D Pit where topsoil was being loaded, hauled and dumped some dust rose from the operations. A water truck was providing support to those operations. Skies were clear. Temperatures ranged between 60 and 70 degrees Fahrenheit.

PERMITTING ACTIONS in PROGRESS:

MAINTENANCE ITEMS IDENTIFIED

OUTSTANDING MAINTENANCE

- Sediment fans in ponds require dredging and this is an ongoing operation.
- Dozer basins require dredging and reconstruction.
- Constructed drainages (MF, MF3 and MF2) require stabilization repairs.
- Fencing and delineation of the new permitted area 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

INSPECTION

GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE:

The inspection began in L Pit, where the Molly Braun drag line was working in the south end of the L Pit. The drag line positioned at the north end of the pit was inactive. Spoil was being hauled and loaded, and two blasts were set up. A blast occurred in the afternoon and was not observed as the vantage points provided no visibility to the blast. J Pit has been opened and no activity was occurring at the time of inspection as the Queen Ann dragline was being walked to the pit and is not yet in place for mining.

Topsoil hauling and spreading was underway in D Pit. Numerous haul trucks were operating as not a lot of coal was being hauled at the time of inspection. Topsoil has been placed in I Pit East. This area

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represents approximately 15 to 20 acres could be included should a Phase I bond release be proposed in the near future that included D Pit.

N Pit was active at the time of inspection. Coal was being excavated and placed in stockpiles for hauling later. C Pit stripping has been completed and no activity was occurring at the time of inspection. Construction progress of the Far East Buzzard ponds was observed. The ready line was orderly at the time of inspection. Ash was being hauled to the ash dump.

SIGNS and MARKERS – Rule 4.02

- 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.

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 ponds.
- 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

Constructed drainages that experienced erosion as a result of a heavy snow winter and associated runoff have not yet been repaired. The operator has a maintenance plan in place for this field season for drainage repair. Construction of the East Buzzard #3 pond is complete. The spillway had fresh concrete in place and the drainage way is awaiting final armoring. Ground water is prevalent and the pond held approximately five feet of water. Erosion control comprising wattles were in place at the construction site of Far East Buzzard #4 as this pond is under construction. Dredging of Pyeatt pond system was occurring at the time of inspection. . Dozer basins on haul road and various ponds are scheduled for dredging as the season progresses. Pond banks were stable and vegetated. Spillways were in good repair and clear. Flumes were functioning properly and dams were stable, and vegetated with no signs of seepage.

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

1. Coyote
 2. Buzzard
 3. Flume
- Middle Flume #1 held a small amount of water.
 - Middle Flume #3 holding water not discharging, cattails and bulrush growing around water perimeter.
 - East Middle Flume #1 held water at the time of inspection. A trickle of water was entering the spillway but not reaching the flume. A sediment fan is present at the inflow.
 - East Flume Pond was dry.
 - Far East Buzzard #3 was holding ground water, and inflow was occurring.

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- Far East Buzzard #4 is in process of being finished. A lense of sandstone prevented complete excavation of the pond. This will reduce pond capacity and may require revisiting the sedcad model.

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 beginning to go dormant.
- Piles appeared to be marked appropriately.
- Topsoil stripping is completed at C Pit.
- Topsoil was being loaded, hauled, dumped and spread in D Pit.

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

- The blast that occurred in the afternoon was not observed.
- Blasting explosive permit has been extended and documentation placed in records.

BACKFILL and GRADING – RULE 4.14

- Reclamation consists of benched overburden in L Pit awaiting grading, an ongoing activity at Trapper Mine.
- Repair and grading of constructed drainages is scheduled to occur this field season as is grading of benches at west edge of L Pit.

REVEGETATION - Rule 4.15

General Requirements 4.15.1; Use of Species 4.15.2, Grazing 4.15.5

- Revegetated areas of reclamation appear stable with a diversity of species as approved in the seed mixture. Some weeds are present in places. Thistles were noted as was cheat grass. No infestations were noted.
- Vegetation cover was noted in the Phase II bond release request area.

FISH and WILDLIFE– RULE 4.18

Wildlife sightings included red and white tailed hawks, various water fowl, ravens, and buzzards.

INSPECTION, ENFORCEMENT and CIVIL PENALTIES – RULE 5

Inspections 5.02; Availability of Records

- As this was a partial inspection, records were not checked.

DOCUMENTS RECEIVED

None

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:** Activities in L Pit, looking south.*

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Photo 2: *Vegetation diversity and cover in proposed phase II bond release parcel ZAB-16.*

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Photo 3: East Middle Flume #3 Pond.



Photo 4: Coyote Pond holding clear water.

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Photo 5: Far East Buzzard Pond #4 holding groundwater.



Photo 6: Fresh concrete at spillway of Far East Buzzard #4.

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***Photo 7:** D Pit topsoil laydown looking south west.*



***Photo 8:** D Pit topsoil laydown looking west.*

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Photo 9: N Pit mining activities, looking east.



Photo 10: L Pit, looking north to a 200 foot increase in stripping pending a TR.

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