

**STATE OF  
COLORADO****Wein - DNR, Clayton <clayton.wein@state.co.us>**

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## New Horizon Mine, C-1981-008, SL-26 Inspection Report

1 message

**Wein - DNR, Clayton** <clayton.wein@state.co.us>

Wed, Nov 8, 2023 at 1:51 PM

To: "Tennyson, Tony (Colowyo)" &lt;ttennyson@tristategt.org&gt;

Cc: "Monroy, Andrew E" &lt;amonroy@osmre.gov&gt;

Good afternoon Tony,

Attached is the Division's report for the SL-26 Bond Release inspection conducted on October 26, 2023. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

**Clayton Wein****Environmental Protection Specialist****COLORADO**  
Division of Reclamation,  
Mining and Safety  
Department of Natural Resources

P 303.866.3567 x 8185 | F 303.832.8106

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203

[clayton.wein@state.co.us](mailto:clayton.wein@state.co.us) | <https://www.drms.colorado.gov>**New Horizon Mine, C-1981-008, SL-26 Inspection Report\_CCW.pdf**

1186K



**PERMIT INFORMATION**

<b>Permit Number:</b> C-1981-008 <b>Mine Name:</b> New Horizon Mine <b>Operator:</b> Elk Ridge Mining and Reclamation, LLC <b>Operator Address:</b> Mr. Tony Tennyson P.O. Box 628 27646 West 5th Avenue Nucla, CO 81424	<b>County:</b> Montrose <b>Operation Type:</b> Surface <b>Permit Status:</b> Active <b>Ownership:</b> Private
	<b>Operator Representative Present:</b>  Tony Tennyson
<b>Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)</b>  	

**INSPECTION INFORMATION**

<b>Inspection Start Date:</b> October 26, 2023 <b>Inspection Start Time:</b> 11:15 <b>Inspection End Date:</b> October 26, 2023 <b>Inspection End Time:</b> 11:50		<b>Inspection Type:</b> Coal Partial Inspection <b>Inspection Reason:</b> Surety Release Requested <b>Weather:</b> Cloudy	
<b>Joint Inspection Agency:</b>  OSM		<b>Joint Inspection Contacts:</b>  Andrew Monroy	
<b>Post Inspection Agency:</b>  OSM		<b>Post Inspection Contacts:</b>  Andrew Monroy	
<b>Inspector(s):</b>  Clayton Wein  Travis Marshall		<b>Inspector's Signature:</b>  <i>Clayton Wein</i>  <b>Signature Date:</b> 11/8/2023	

**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

N - Backfill &amp; Grading

N - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

N - Explosives

Y - Fish &amp; Wildlife

Y - Hydrologic Balance

Y - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Other

N - Processing Waste

N - Roads

R - Reclamation Success

N - Revegetation

N - Subsidence

N - Slides and Other Damage

N - Support Facilities On-site

Y - Signs and Markers

N - Support Facilities Not On-site

N - Special Categories Of Mining

N - Topsoil

**COMMENTS**

This report documents the Divisions observations taken during a bond release inspection at the New Horizon Mine. The inspection was conducted on October 26, 2023. Clayton Wein and Travis Marshall represented the Division at the inspection. The operator Elk Ridge Mining and Reclamation (ERM) was represented by Tony Tennyson. Andrew Monroy from the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) also attended the inspection. The inspection party met at the gate entering the permit boundary on the west side 2700 Road. The weather was partly cloudy with a temperature of 50° F. The ground conditions were dry at the time of the inspection.

**RECLAMATION SUCCESS - Rule 4.15, Rule 3:**

Two areas of the New Horizon Mine were requested for bond release under the SL-26 Application. 0.1 acres were requested for Phase I, Phase II and Phase III release that is associated with the C-15 Ditch. The SL-26 Application also requested the Phase II and Phase III release of 1.7 acres associated with the SP-2 Stock Pond (Formerly known as Pond 009). Both the C-15 Ditch and SP-2 Stock Pond have been approved to remain as permanent features to support the post mining land use of dryland pasture at the request of the landowner.

Both the C-15 Ditch and the SP-2 Stock Pond are located in the northeast corner of the permit area. The pond and ditch were accessed on the west side of 2700 Road through a gate. A Mine Identification sign was placed at the entrance to the permit boundary near the SP-2 Stock Pond (Photo 1). The mine ID sign displayed the permit number and the current contact information for the operator. The sign was placed in an unobstructed location and was in good condition.

The C-15 Ditch is located on the hillside to the west of the SP-2 Stock Pond. The ditch was dry during the inspection. The ditch is roughly four feet across and two feet deep. The northern side of the channel was an embankment. The channel bottom was observed to be stable with no indications of down-cutting or erosion (Photo 2). Some vegetative growth has helped stabilize the channel. The vegetation within the channel was small and would not impede the ditch's ability to function. The north embankment was also vegetated and stable (Photo 3). There were no signs of sloughing, cracking or obstructions identified. Some small pieces of a broken PVC pipe were identified within the C-15 Ditch (Photo 4). These pieces of debris were removed from the channel

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Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1

during the inspection. A small pile of barbed wire and a T-post were identified on the top of the north embankment for the ditch. The operator stated that they would go back that afternoon to remove the wire and marker. Based on the observations made during the inspection, the C-15 Ditch is sufficiently stable with vegetative cover. The ditch is capable of functioning as designed outlined in Attachment 2.05.3(3)-1 of the C-008 Permit Application Package.

The SP-2 Stock pond was reduced in size and reclaimed to the approved post mining configuration in 2020. The southern embankment of the stock pond is located at the bottom of the adjacent hillside (Photo 5 and 6). The slope of the embankment was gentle approximately having an 8:1 slope as approved. The embankment slope was stable with vegetative cover. There were no erosional features identified. The eastern (Photo 7) and western (Photo 8) embankments of the stock pond were also identified to have vegetative cover supporting the embankments' stability. No indications of erosional features were observed. The east and west embankments matched the approved 3:1 slopes. The northern embankment for the stock pond is located on the down slope side of the hill. The slope of the embankment facing into the pond matched the approved slope of 4:1. The top of the embankment was flat and then the north facing portion of the north embankment started sloping gently, then increasing to match the approved 3:1 slope. The north embankment of the pond was stable with mature vegetative cover (Photo 9 and 10). There were no indications of erosional features. During the inspection of the SP-2 Stock Pond, no animal burrows, cracks, slumps or areas of saturated soils were observed. The SP-2 Stock Pond was holding water during the inspection. The level of water impounded in the pond was well below the pond's outlet. The outlet for the pond is located at the junction of the west and north embankments. The outlet is an open channel design with a depth of 5 feet and about 40 to 50 feet across the whole channel. The sides of the channel slope inwards to the channel bottom at an approximate rate of 3:1. The channel was stabilized with vegetative cover (Photo 11). The vegetation grown on the channel did not reduce the channel's capacity to function. There were no erosional; features observed within the channel structure. The inlet connecting the C-15 Ditch to the SP-2 Stock Pond is located at the junction of the west and south embankments of the SP-2 pond (Photo 12). The inlet for the pond was vegetated and stable. There were no indications of channel down-cutting or erosion identified. Based on the observations made during the inspection, the SP-2 Stock Pond has been reclaimed to the approved design outlined by Attachment 2.05.3(3)-39 and had sufficient vegetative cover to control and prevent erosion. The stock pond is capable of supporting the approved post mining land use to support the surrounding dry land pasture.

**DOCUMENTS RECEIVED: None**

**OTHER (SPECIFY): None**

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**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: The Mine ID sign placed at the gate at the entrance to the permit area near SP-2.



Photo 2: The C-15 Ditch channel.



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Photo 3: The C -15 Ditch looking to the east. The north embankment is on the left hand side of the photo.

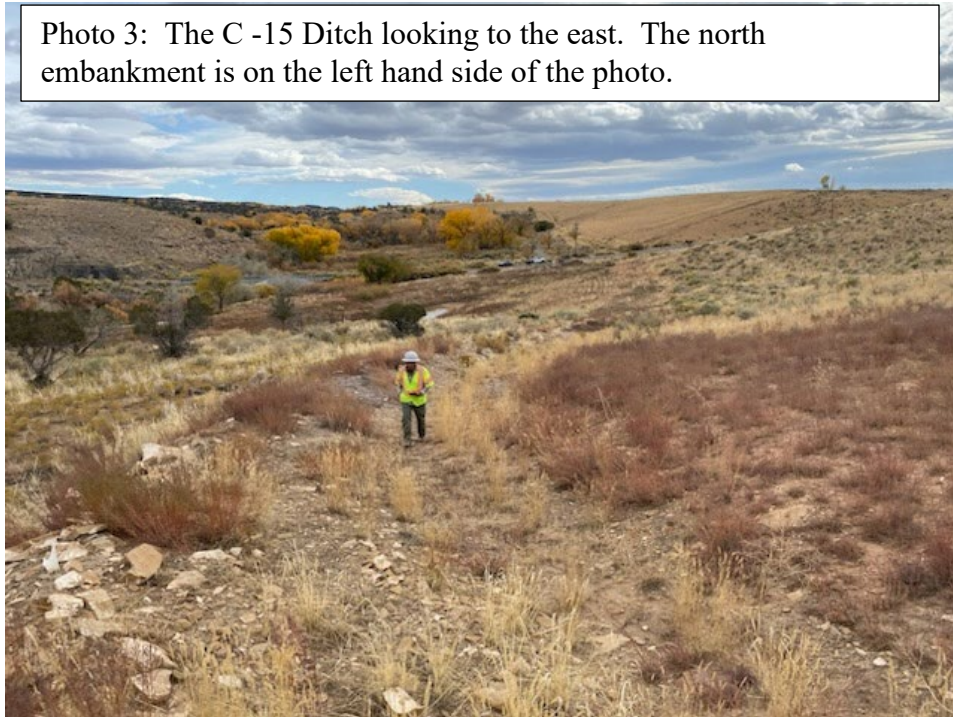
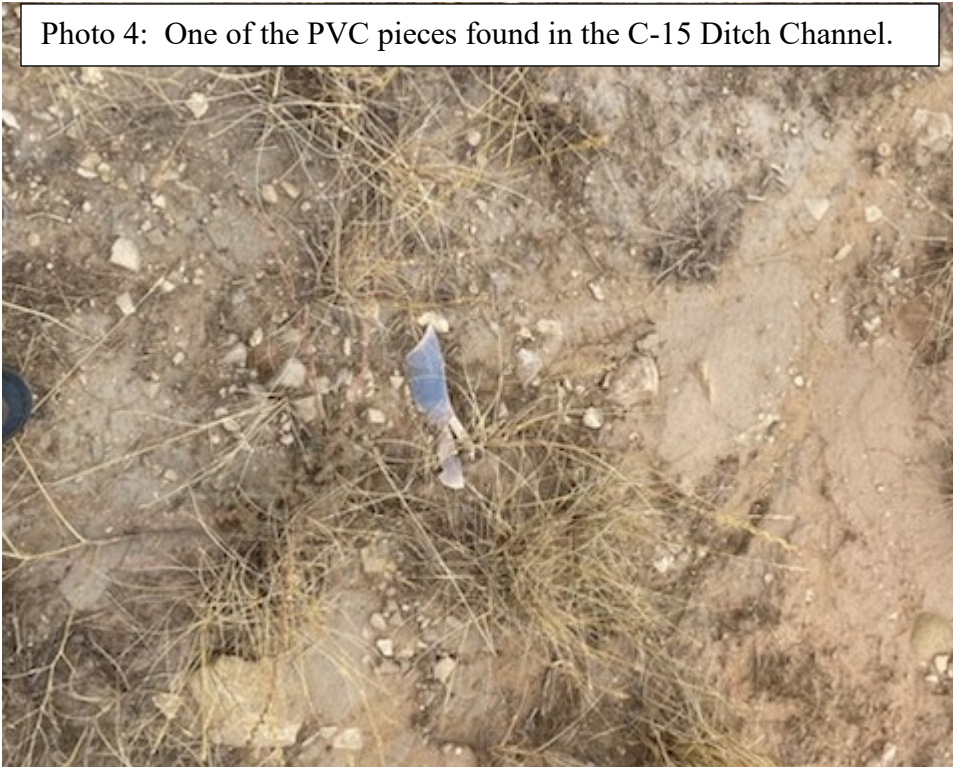


Photo 4: One of the PVC pieces found in the C-15 Ditch Channel.



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Photo 5: The western portion of the SP-2 south embankment.



Photo 6: The eastern portion of the SP-2 south embankment.



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Photo 7: The east SP-2 embankment outlined in the blue circle.



Photo 8: The west SP-2 embankment.



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Photo 9: The western portion of the SP-2 north embankment.



Photo 10: The eastern portion of the SP-2 north Embankment.



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Photo 11: The discharge outlet for SP-2.



Photo 12: The inlet to the SP-2 Stock Pond.



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