



STATE OF  
COLORADO

West - DNR, Lucas <lucas.west@state.co.us>

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## C-1981-008 November Aerial Inspection Report

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**West - DNR, Lucas** <lucas.west@state.co.us>

Mon, Nov 20, 2023 at 2:40 PM

To: "Tennyson, Tony (Colowyo)" <ttennyson@tristategt.org>, Clayton Wein - DNR <clayton.wein@state.co.us>, DNR  
DRMS\_CoalAdmin - DNR <dnr\_drms\_coal\_admin@state.co.us>

Good Afternoon Tony!

I hope things are well with you, attached to this email is the Partial Inspection Report for New Horizon that was conducted this month as an Aerial Inspection. Let me know if you have any questions, the New Horizon North report will be coming soon. Thanks and have a happy Thanksgiving!

Lucas

Lucas West  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Minerals Program, Grand Junction Field Office



**COLORADO**  
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**C-1981-008 November 2023 Aerial Inspection Report.pdf**


1052K



**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>  None Present
<b>Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)</b>  	

**INSPECTION INFORMATION**

<b>Inspection Start Date:</b> November 14, 2023 <b>Inspection Start Time:</b> 12:22 <b>Inspection End Date:</b> November 14, 2023 <b>Inspection End Time:</b> 12:23	<b>Inspection Type:</b> Aerial Inspection <b>Inspection Reason:</b> Normal I&E Program <b>Weather:</b> Clear
<b>Joint Inspection Agency:</b>  None	<b>Joint Inspection Contacts:</b>
<b>Post Inspection Agency:</b>  None	<b>Post Inspection Contacts:</b>
<b>Inspector(s):</b>  Lucas West	<b>Inspector's Signature:</b>  <b>Signature Date:</b>  11/20/2023

**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

R - Backfill &amp; Grading

N - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

N - Explosives

N - Fish &amp; Wildlife

R - Hydrologic Balance

N - 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

N - Signs and Markers

N - Support Facilities Not On-site

N - Special Categories Of Mining

R - Topsoil

**COMMENTS**

This was an aerial inspection of the New Horizon Mine conducted on November 14, 2023. This inspection report was written by Lucas West of the Division and the photos were taken by Brock Bowles of the Division. The weather was clear and dry at the time of the inspection. At the time of the inspection active reclamation activities were being conducted on site. Various equipment was seen operating in various areas. Four Photos accompany this report to illustrate the current site conditions.

**BACKFILL and GRADING – Rule 4.14**

Contemporaneous Reclamation 4.14.1; Approximate Original Contour 4.14.2; Highwall Elimination 4.14.1(2)(f); Steep Slopes 4.14.2, 4.27; Handling of Acid and Toxic Materials 4.14.3; Stabilization of Rills and Gullies 4.14.6:

An overview of the active reclamation area can be seen in Photo One. At the time of the inspection, it is seen that almost all of the backfill area has been graded with Bench 1 material and a significant area has also had topsoil applied. From the photos no signs of settling, slumping or significant erosion was noted. Photo Two shows the area being actively topsoiled and graded during the inspection.

**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 were observed during the inspection, with Pond 13 being the only pond retaining water. Pond 13, shown in Photo Three is in good condition, water was observed actively flowing into the pond by way of the piped inlet. The vegetation and baffle curtains are in good condition and no issues are noted in the area. Also visible in Photo Three, is the rock lined conveyance leading from the backfill area to the pond which is also in excellent condition.

**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):

Also visible in Photo One, are the two access roads leading to Pond 13, traversing the backfill area. Both

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access roads enter the area at the same location, with one meandering to the north, the other taking a straighter path to Pond 13. The meandering access road is slated to be reclaimed, leaving the southern access road as the permanent path to Pond 13. This was accomplished through a recent revision, both roads appear stable and in good condition. No erosional issues were noted.

#### SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

Located to the Southeast of the backfill area, where the activity is taking place, lies the facilities area that includes the shop, office and various out buildings. The facilities area can be seen in Photo Four. All buildings, equipment and items in this area are in excellent condition with no problems.

#### TOPSOIL – Rule 4.06

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

Throughout the site, and shown in various photos in this report, topsoil stockpiles of various designated horizons are visible. From this vantage it is clear to see the ring berms around all topsoil stockpiles, as well as stabilizing vegetation. The ring berms appear to be functioning as designed as no evidence of sediment transport was noted, all stockpiles are noted to be in excellent condition.

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## **PHOTOGRAPHS**



Photo One: View Northeast, showing the active reclamation activities taking place on site.



Photo Two: View Northeast, showing the application of topsoil taking place in the South East area near BB Road.

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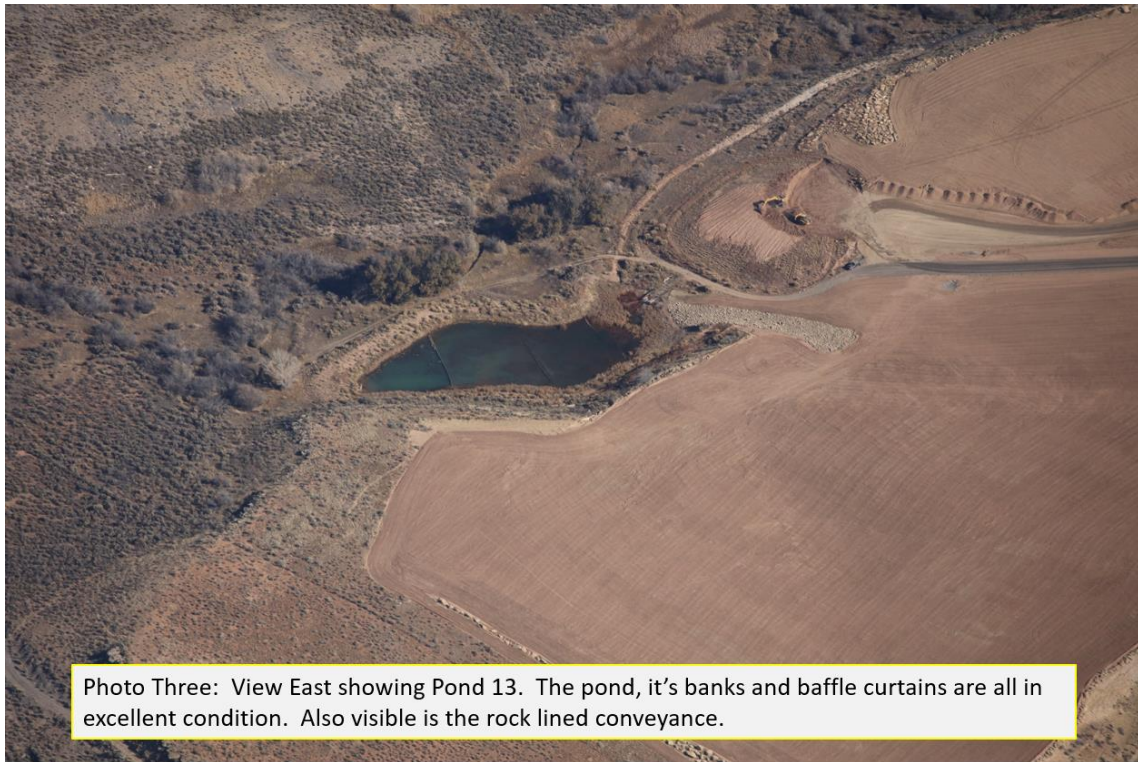


Photo Three: View East showing Pond 13. The pond, it's banks and baffle curtains are all in excellent condition. Also visible is the rock lined conveyance.



Photo Four: View Northeast, showing the Facilities area including the shop, office and various outbuildings. Also visible is the topsoil storage area and Pond 018.

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