

STATE OF  
COLORADO

Ridley - DNR, Hunter &lt;hunter.ridley@state.co.us&gt;

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

1 message

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

Tue, Nov 21, 2023 at 7:52 AM

To: "Kawcak, Miranda" &lt;mkawcak@peabodyenergy.com&gt;

Miranda,

Please find attached the report for the November Coal Complete inspection of the Peabody Sage Creek Mine. Let me know if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Hunter Ridley (she/her/hers)

Environmental Protection Specialist I

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

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6140K



**PERMIT INFORMATION**

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

**INSPECTION INFORMATION**

|                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                           |                                                                                                                           |                                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Inspection Start Date:</b> November 15, 2023<br><b>Inspection Start Time:</b> 09:00<br><b>Inspection End Date:</b> November 15, 2023<br><b>Inspection End Time:</b> 10:30 |                                                           | <b>Inspection Type:</b> Coal Complete Inspection<br><b>Inspection Reason:</b> Normal I&E Program<br><b>Weather:</b> Clear |                                                 |
| <b>Joint Inspection Agency:</b><br><br>None                                                                                                                                  |                                                           | <b>Joint Inspection Contacts:</b><br><br>                                                                                 |                                                 |
| <b>Post Inspection Agency:</b><br><br>None                                                                                                                                   |                                                           | <b>Post Inspection Contacts:</b><br><br>                                                                                  |                                                 |
| <b>Inspector(s):</b><br><br>Hunter Ridley                                                                                                                                    | <b>Inspector's Signature:</b><br><br><i>Hunter Ridley</i> |                                                                                                                           | <b>Signature Date:</b><br><br>November 21, 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 &amp; Grading

N - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

N - Explosives

Y - Fish &amp; Wildlife

R - Hydrologic Balance

R - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Other

N - Processing Waste

Y - Roads

N - Reclamation Success

Y - 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. Operator representative Kevin Copeland was present at the time of the inspection and Miranda Kawcak was present at the records check at the Foidel Creek Mine. **Please address the Bold items below.**

**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. A scale, scale house, and office buildings are near the site entrance (Photo 1).

**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 and sumps at the site were discharging at the time of inspection with no erosional features noted (Photos 2, 4, 5, 10, and 11). NPDES #7, located by the site’s main office buildings, was also discharging. However, the southeastern culvert of NPDES #7 needs repair (Photo 12). Flow was not completely blocked off from this point, but repair of the crushed culvert is required for full function. This has been added as a maintenance item. **Please inform the Division when the appropriate repairs have been completed.**

Mine water and snowmelt are no longer being continually pumped at the portal entrance (Photo 7). The float system which automatically turns on pumps when needed at the portal entry is still in place. A natural spring

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 0

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2

leeches from the walls at the portal entries. A series of ditches capture and carry this water to be pumped back out of the portal area (Photos 8 and 9).

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):

All haul roads, A through F, were well maintained and free of any erosional features.

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 (Photos 3 and 6). These areas remain organized and contained.

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 10). 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.
- Culvert at NPDES #7 needs to be repaired.
- Continue to 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.

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## **PHOTOGRAPHS**



*Photo 1: View south of the scale and scale house area.*



*Photo 2: View west of Pond 003 near the site entrance.*

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*Photo 3: Storage area located along Haul Road B.*



*Photo 4: View north of Pond 002.*

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*Photo 5: View north of the pond south of Pond 002 which acts as a sump for mine water.*



*Photo 6: Storage area located to the south of the Pond 002 Pump Facility.*

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*Photo 7: View east of the portal entries.*



*Photo 8: A natural spring leeches from a wall at the portal entries. Ditches capture and carry this water to be pumped back out of the portal area.*

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*Photo 9: View south of one of three portal entries.*



*Photo 10: View southwest of Pecoco Pond and Topsoil Pile A.*

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*Photo 11: View west of the Upper Sump Area, located north of Pecoco Pond.*



*Photo 12: Crushed culvert at the southern end of the NPDES #7 discharge point, in need of repair.*

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**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                                                  | <b>Issued 9/4/2012<br/>(Aug 2017,<br/>APEN update<br/>Exp 2023)</b> |
| County Special Use Permits                                            | 2/9/16 Exp 2026                                                     |
| UG Mining Landowner Notification                                      | 2/29/2011                                                           |
| Subsidence Monitoring Reports                                         | <b>2 &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> Q 2012</b>                                |
| Subsidence Monitoring Data                                            | <b>2 &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> Q 2012</b>                                |
| Rill & Gully Survey                                                   | June 2018                                                           |
| Vegetation Monitoring Data                                            | 2014                                                                |
| Specific Variance Approvals                                           | NA                                                                  |
| Annual Reclamation Reports                                            | 2019                                                                |
| Midterm Review Documents                                              | <b>Update with Feb<br/>2023 MT3</b>                                 |
| DRMS/OSM Inspection                                                   | Oct 2020                                                            |
| Reports/Enforcement Actions (3 Years)                                 |                                                                     |
| Transfers/Succession of Operator                                      | SO1                                                                 |
| Temporary Cessation Notification                                      | Jan 2017                                                            |
| Reclamation Cost Estimate                                             | RN1                                                                 |
| <b>CERTIFICATIONS</b>                                                 |                                                                     |
| 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                      | <b>Exp Dec 2020<br/>Update</b> |
| 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)**

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