



STATE OF
COLORADO

Simmons - DNR, Leigh <leigh.simmons@state.co.us>

C1980007, West Elk Mine, November Inspection Report

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Wed, Nov 22, 2023 at 10:26 PM

To: "Wilczek, Jessica" <jwilczek@archrsc.com>

Attached

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Division of Reclamation,
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PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1980-007 Mine Name: West Elk Mine Operator: Mountain Coal Company, LLC Operator Address: Ms Jessica Wilczek 5174 Highway 133 Somerset, CO 81434	County: Delta, Gunnison Operation Type: Underground Permit Status: Active Ownership: Private
	Operator Representative Present: Chase Hiatt
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) 	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: November 15, 2023 Inspection Start Time: 13:30 Inspection End Date: Inspection End Time:	Inspection Type: Coal Partial 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): Leigh Simmons	Inspector's Signature:  Signature Date: November 22, 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 & Grading

N - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

N - Explosives

N - Fish & Wildlife

R - Hydrologic Balance

R - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Other

R - 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

N - Topsoil

COMMENTS

This was a partial inspection by Leigh Simmons of the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division). Chase Hiatt of Mountain Coal Company (MCC) accompanied the inspection. The weather was overcast following overnight rain. The mine was active.

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:

Cleaning of the RPE pond was halted while the long-arm excavator was being repaired.

At the MB3 pond the pump was running to drain the water, ready for cleaning.

GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE:

Longwall mining of the LWE15 panel was in progress, at around crosscut 8 on the headgate.

Development of the LWE12 headgate was complete.

Development of the B Southwest Mains was in progress, at around crosscut 8.

MCC continued to manage a large amount of coal fines. No fines were being generated from the coal mined in the LWE15 panel. Existing fines were gradually being blended into the coal loaded onto trains, as contract specifications allow. Hot spots in the stockpiled fines were being managed as they occurred.

PROCESSING WASTE/COAL MINE WASTE PILES – Rule 4.10 and 4.11

Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization; Placement:

No refuse was being generated at the time of the inspection, and, as a result of the wet weather, none was being transported around the site either. The surface of the RPEE had been left smooth and fairly compact, sloped so as to drain to the northwest. Uncompacted material had been temporarily placed on the western edge of the RPEE. Refuse on the western edge was at the line where vegetation had been grubbed to; on the eastern edge of the pile several vertical feet of capacity remained, however vegetation and topsoil will need to be stripped and stockpiled respectively before the pile can grow significantly.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 5

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1

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):

The roads around the facilities were in good shape, in particular the RPEE haul road.

SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

At the Shaft 3 pad the methane pump was running.

DOCUMENTS RECEIVED

N/A

OTHER (SPECIFY)

N/A

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

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

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Figure 3: Development progress in B southwest mains

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Figure 4: Entrance to RPEE (west)



Figure 5: Entrance to RPEE (east)

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Figure 6: Compacted surface of RPEE, with uncompacted material on west side



Figure 7: East side of RPEE, showing stripped topsoil

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Figure 8: Refuse on west side of RPEE at upper limit

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Figure 9: Underdrain on RPE

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Figure 10: RPE and RPE pond



Figure 11: SG-1 pond

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Figure 12: MB-3 pond (west)



Figure 13: MB-3 pond (east)

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