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C1980007, West Elk Mine, November Inspection Report

Simmons - DNR, Leigh <leigh.simmons@state.co.us> To: "Wilczek, Jessica" <jwilczek@archrsc.com>

Wed, Nov 22, 2023 at 10:26 PM

Attached

Leigh Simmons Environmental Protection Specialist



COLORADO

Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety

Department of Natural Resources

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INSP-REPORTC_C1980007_LDS_11222023100110.pdf



PERMIT INFORMATION

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

INSPECTION INFORMATION

| Inspection Start Date: November Inspection Start Time: 13:30 Inspection End Date: Inspection End Time: | r 15, 2023 | | Inspection Type: Coal Partial Inspection Inspection Reason: Normal I&E Program Weather: Clear |
|--|--|----------------------|---|
| Joint Inspection Agency: Joint | | Inspection Contacts: | |
| None | | | |
| Post Inspection Agency: | | Post | Inspection Contacts: |
| None | | | |
| Inspector(s): | Inspector's Signature: Signature Date: | | |
| Leigh Simmons | Di | | 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 R - Roads

N - Availability of Records N - Reclamation Success

N - Backfill & Grading
N - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste
N - Subsidence

N - Explosives
N - Fish & Wildlife
R - Support Facilities On-site

N - Fish & Wildlife R - Support Facilities On-s
R - Hydrologic Balance N - Signs and Markers

R - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan
 N - Support Facilities Not On-site
 N - Other
 N - Special Categories Of Mining

R - Processing Waste 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.

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.

PHOTOGRAPHS

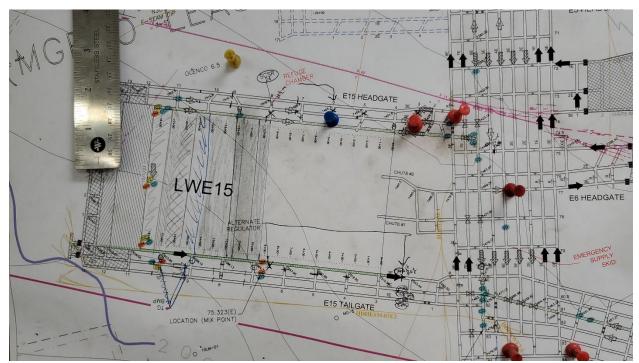


Figure 1: Mine map showing longwall progress in LWE15

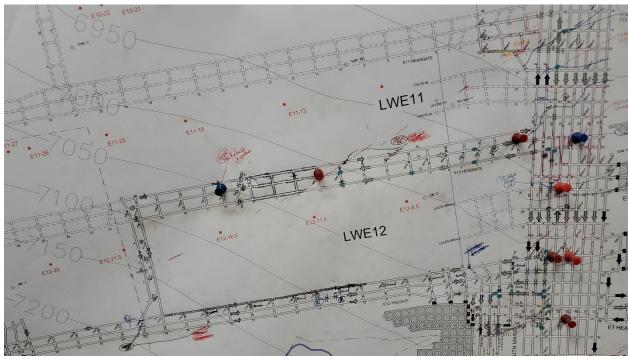


Figure 2: Development of LWE12 complete

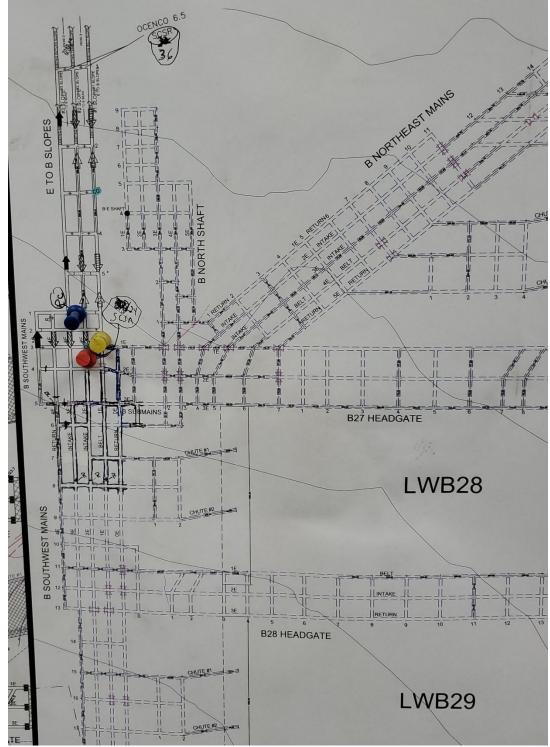


Figure 3: Development progress in B southwest mains



Figure 4: Entrance to RPEE (west)



Figure 5: Entrance to RPEE (east)



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



Figure 7: East side of RPEE, showing stripped topsoil



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



Figure 9: Underdrain on RPEE



Figure 10: RPE and RPE pond



Figure 11: SG-1 pond



Figure 12: MB-3 pond (west)



Figure 13: MB-3 pond (east)