



STATE OF
COLORADO

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

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

1 message

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

Tue, Nov 21, 2023 at 7:52 AM

To: "Kawcak, Miranda" <mkawcak@peabodyenergy.com>

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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SageCreek_Nov_CC.pdf

6140K



PERMIT INFORMATION

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

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: November 15, 2023 Inspection Start Time: 09:00 Inspection End Date: November 15, 2023 Inspection End Time: 10:30		Inspection Type: Coal Complete 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): Hunter Ridley	Inspector's Signature: <i>Hunter Ridley</i>		Signature Date: 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 & Grading

N - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

N - Explosives

Y - Fish & 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

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