



STATE OF
COLORADO

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C1980007, West Elk Mine, December Inspection Report

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

Fri, Dec 15, 2023 at 5:48 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_12152023051921.pdf
2733K



COLORADO

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Mining and Safety

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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: December 13, 2023 Inspection Start Time: 10:00 Inspection End Date: Inspection End Time:	Inspection Type: Coal Complete Inspection Inspection Reason: Normal I&E Program Weather: Cloudy
Joint Inspection Agency: None	Joint Inspection Contacts:
Post Inspection Agency: None	Post Inspection Contacts:
Inspector(s): Leigh Simmons	Inspector's Signature:  Signature Date: December 15, 2023

Inspection Topic Summary

NOTE: Y=Inspected N=Not Inspected R=Comments Noted V=Violation Issued NA=Not Applicable

N - Air Resource Protection	N - Roads
R - Availability of Records	N - Reclamation Success
N - Backfill & Grading	N - Revegetation
N - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste	N - Subsidence
N - Explosives	N - Slides and Other Damage
N - Fish & Wildlife	N - Support Facilities On-site
N - 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 complete 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. The mine was active.

AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS – Rule 5.02.4(1):

Records were available on a computer in the small conference room at the mine office. Details are given at the end of this report.

GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE:

Longwall mining of the LWE15 panel was in progress, between crosscuts 6 and 5 on the headgate. Development of the LWE12 panel was complete, the panel had been reduced in length from what had been intended as the coal seam had not been as viable as expected.

Development of the B Submains/B27 headgate was in progress.

MCC continued to manage a large amount of coal fines, but no new fines were being generated from the coal mined in the LWE15 panel, which was not being washed. Existing fines were gradually being blended into the coal loaded onto trains at a rate of ~10-20%, as contract specifications and weather conditions allow. Bob Munz estimated that 267,000 tons of stockpiled fines were on site.

PROCESSING WASTE/COAL MINE WASTE PILES – Rule 4.10 and 4.11**Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization; Placement:**

The wash plant was not in use at the time of the inspection, so no new processing waste was being generated. Material from the temporary stockpile on the RPE was being transported to the RPEE and piled on the western edge of the compacted surface, with as small a footprint as possible. No attempt was being made to compact the new material. An estimated 20,000 tons of refuse remained in the temporary stockpile.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 5

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2

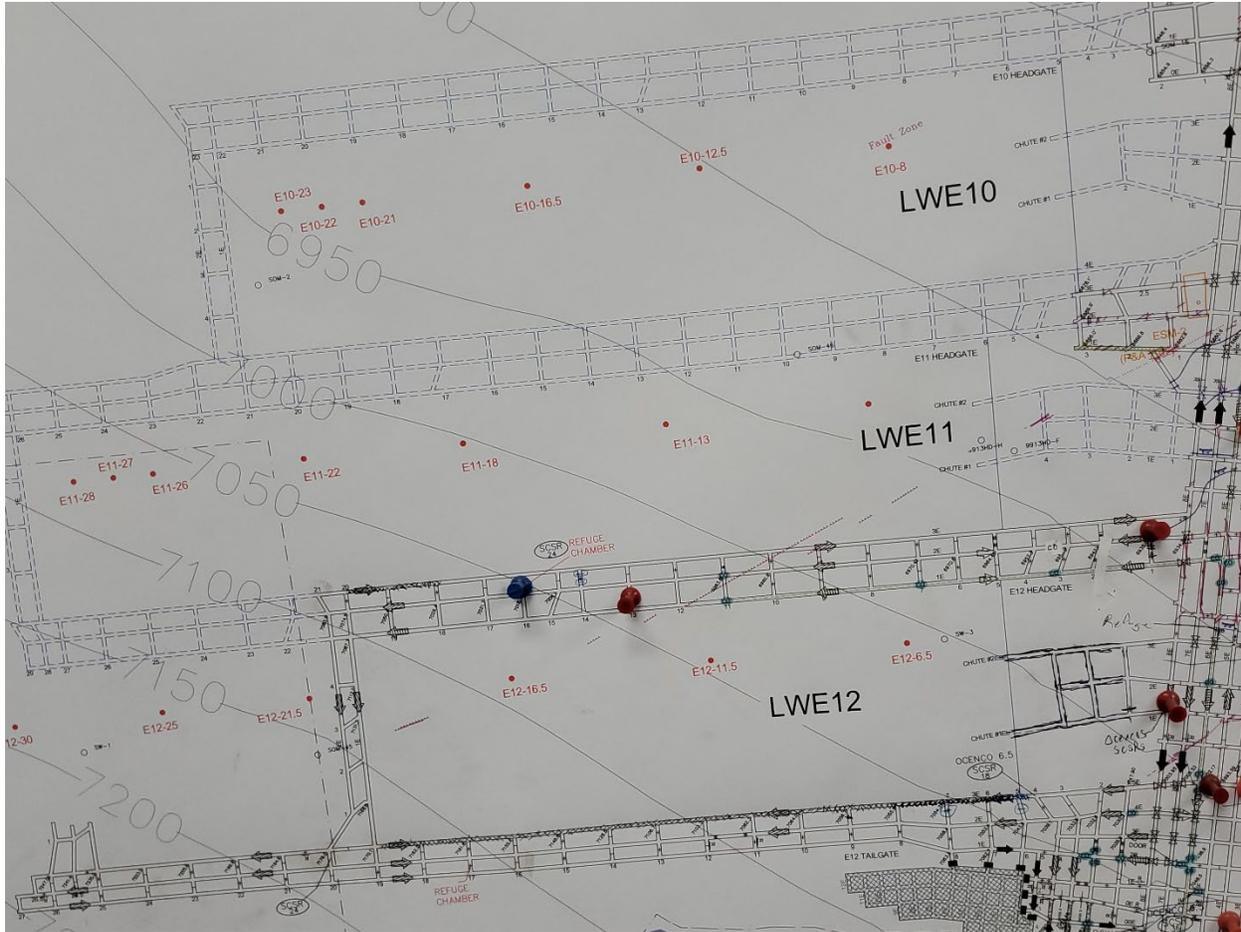


Figure 2: Mine map showing development of LWE12

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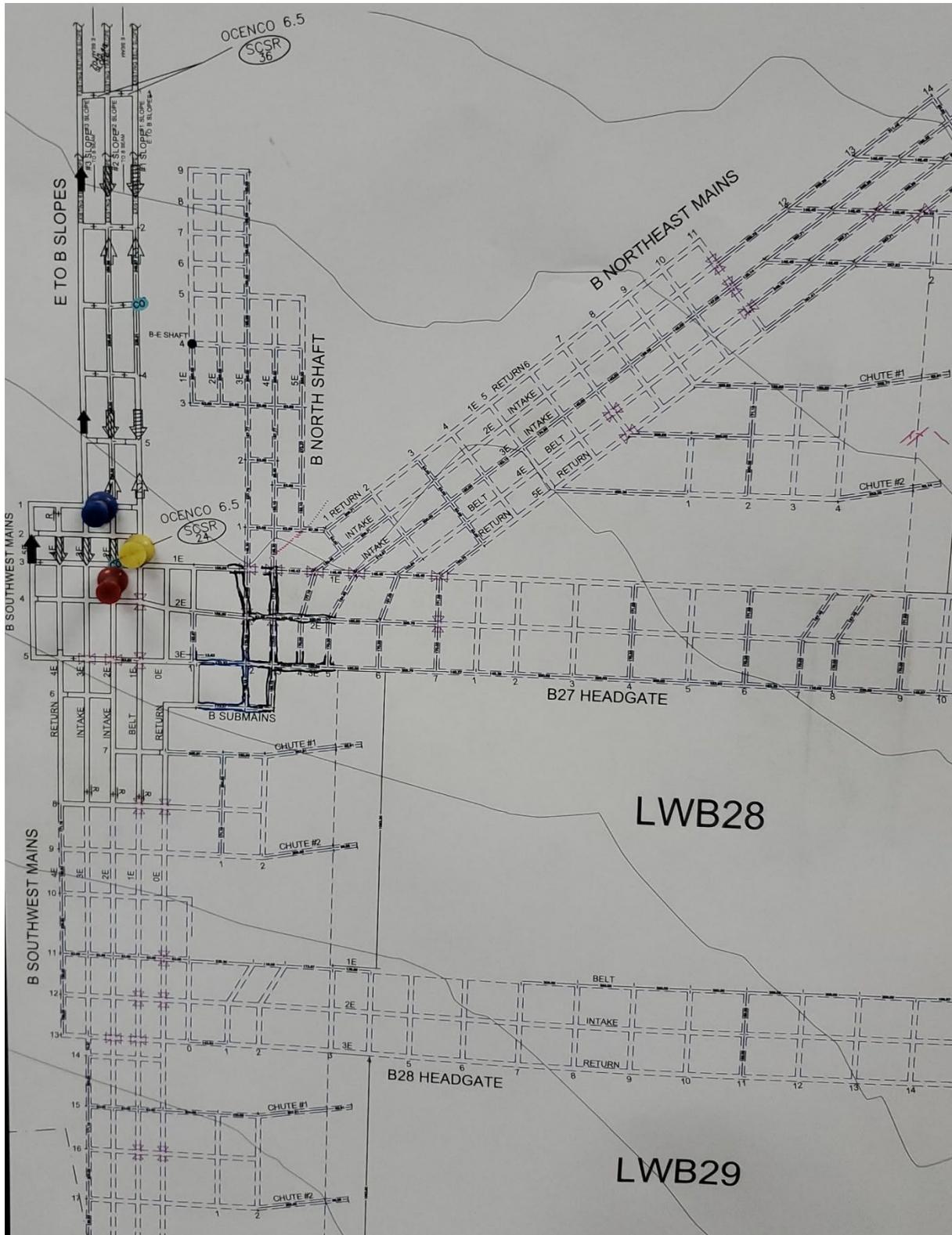


Figure 3: Development progress in B-seam

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Figure 4: Western edge of RPEE



Figure 5: Two excavators used to raise height of temporarily piled waste on RPEE

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Figure 6: Material in temporary waste pile on RPE



Figure 7: RPE pond

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Figure 8: Run-of-mine coal stockpile, with fines on the left

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AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS

PERMIT RECORDS

DRMS Permit Expires 7/31/26
Permit Application w/Revisions LF
Findings Document RN-8, 6/1/2022

Insurance Certificate Expires 7/31/24
Bond Document \$5M & \$10M
Phased Bond Release Thru SL-15
Documents/Findings
Air Emission Permits*3 09GU1382
 10GU1130
 13GU1462

County Special Use Permits N/A

UG Mining Landowner Yes
Notification
Subsidence Monitoring Reports Spring 2023
Subsidence Monitoring Data Q1 2023
Rill & Gully Survey N/A

Vegetation Monitoring Data SL-17
Specific Variance Approvals Stream buffer zone

Annual Reclamation Reports 2022
Midterm Review Documents MT-08
DRMS/OSM Inspection Through 11/23
Reports/Enforcement Actions (3 Years)

Transfers/Succession of Operator Yes
Temporary Cessation Notification N/A
Reclamation Cost Estimate RN-08

CERTIFICATIONS

Pond Certifications Yes
Annual Certifications for Impoundments N/A

Fill Certifications for Excess Spoil or Underground Development Waste

• Quarterly Inspections Q3 2023
 • Compaction Testing Q3 2023
 • Final Certification N/A
Coal Processing Waste Banks Yes
Haul Road Certifications Yes
Access Road Certifications Yes

HYDROLOGIC RECORDS

NPDES Permit Exp 9/30/24, *1
NPDES Records Through 11/23
Stormwater Management Plan 2/23/2023

SPCC Plan 3/4/2022
MSHA Pond Inspections N/A
State Engineer’s Pond Inspection 10/23/2018
Quarterly Pond Inspections Q3 2023

Annual Hydrology Reports 7/23 for 2022 water year
 • **Ground Water Monitoring** Yes

• **Surface Water Monitoring** Yes
 • **Spring & Seep Monitoring** Yes
 • **Mine Water Discharge Monitoring** Yes

• **Mine Inflow Study** Yes
 • **Water Consumption Records** Yes

Well Permits Yes

BLASTING RECORDS

Blasting Publication N/A
Blasting Records (3 years) N/A
ATFE Explosives Permit Expires 6/1/2024
Blasting Variances N/A
Pre-Blast Surveys N/A

ADDITIONAL RECORDS (specify)

Monthly Air Quality Cert. Through 7/23*2
 Rock Dust Maintenance Through 7/23*2

*1 The renewed CDPS permit has been issued but is the subject of ongoing litigation. The dispute is scheduled to be heard by the appeals court on February 11, 2024.

*2 Please update the records on the USB stick with recent data

*3 Please provide a copy of the most recent APCD permit, and remove any that are no longer active

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