STATE OF COLORADO

Jesse - DNR, Todd <todd.jesse@state.co.us>

Deserado Mine, C-1981-018 December Partial Inspection Report

1 message

Jesse - DNR, Todd <todd.jesse@state.co.us> Wed, Dec 20, 2023 at 8:59 AM
To: kblunt@deserado.com
Cc: Travis Marshall - DNR <travis.marshall@state.co.us>, Clayton Wein - DNR <clayton.wein@state.co.us>

Good morning Kurt,

Attached is the Division's report for the partial inspection from December 12, 2023. I did not note any maintenance items during the inspection. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks,
Todd
--
Environmental Protection Specialist
Minerals Program, Grand Junction Field Office

2023-12-20 Inspection Report C1981018.pdf
2588K

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

PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1981-018 **Mine Name:** Deserado Mine **Operator:** Blue Mountain Energy, Inc **Operator Address:** Mr Kurtis Blunt 3607 County Road 65 Rangely, CO, 81648	**County:** Moffat, Rio Blanco **Operation Type:** Underground **Permit Status:** Active **Ownership:** Private
	Operator Representative Present: Kurtis Blunt
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: December 12, 2023 **Inspection Start Time:** 11:00 **Inspection End Date:** December 12, 2023 **Inspection End Time:** 13:00	**Inspection Type:** Coal Partial Inspection **Inspection Reason:** Normal I&E Program **Weather:** Clear
Joint Inspection Agency: None	**Joint Inspection Contacts:** NA
Post Inspection Agency: None	**Post Inspection Contacts:** NA

Inspector(s):	**Inspector's Signature:**	**Signature Date:**
Todd Jesse		12/20/23

1313 Sherman St. Room 215
Denver, CO 80203
(303) 866-3567

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
Y - Hydrologic Balance
N - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan
N - Other
Y - Processing Waste
Y - Roads
N - Reclamation Success
N - Revegetation
N - Subsidence
N - Slides and Other Damage
Y - Support Facilities On-site
Y - Signs and Markers
N - Support Facilities Not On-site
N - Special Categories Of Mining
Y - Topsoil

COMMENTS

This report documents the observations made by the Division during a complete inspection of the Deserado Mine on December 12, 2023. The inspection was completed by Todd Jesse of the Division. Kurt Blunt represented Blue Mountain Energy during the inspection. The weather was partly cloudy with a temperature of 30 degrees F. The ground conditions were muddy, and some snow cover remained at the mine site. Despite the soft ground conditions, most of the mine site was accessible during the inspection.

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:

Three ponds are located within the facilities are of the mine site; the DP-1 pond, the PP-1 pond and the PP-2 pond. All three facility ponds were accessible at the time of the inspection. DP-1 collects all runoff from the three main facilities benches. DP-1 was frozen and covered with snow at the time of the inspection. The pond was discharging through the primary outlet at the time of the inspection. The discharge was free of obstructions (Photo 1). There were no indications of instability or erosion observed. The PP-1 pond is located on the middle facilities bench by the prep plant. The pond was frozen at the time of the inspection. No signs of instability or erosion were noted (Photo 2). Pond PP-1 was not observed to be discharging. The PP-2 pond is located on the upper facilities bench. This pond was also frozen and snow covered. There were no indications of instability or erosion on the pond's embankment.

The RS-1 Sump and the RR-1 Pond are located on the south side of the rail loadout. The RS-1 Sump was not impounding water at the time of the inspection. The sump's embankments were stable and there were no erosional features identified. No water was observed in the RR-1 Pond. The inlets to the pond were stable and the erosional cutting on the idle inlet had not enlarged since the Division's previous inspection. The embankments of the pond were stable with no signs of erosion.

The SS-1 and SS-2 Ponds are located north of the Slot Storage Facility. The SS-1 Pond was holding some minor amounts of water that was mostly frozen. The pond was not discharging water. The pond's embankments were

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 4
Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2

stable with no indications of erosion. The culvert leading into the pond was clear (Photo 3). The SS-2 Pond was not holding water at the time of the inspection. The embankment of the pond was stable with no signs of erosion.

The B Seam Dewatering System #2 is located to the south of the Slot Storage. The B Seam Dewatering System #2 was inactive during the inspection. The upper and lower cells of the system were dry. The embankment of the upper cells are intact with minor erosion where repair work was completed (Photo 4). Some water was being held in the middle cell of the system below the level of the discharge outlet.

Pond RP-4 is located at the northwestern base of the RP-2/3/4 Refuse Pile. The embankment of the pond was stable with no erosional issues identified (Photo 5) No burrows were seen in the embankment. The outlet was clear of blockages.

Pond RP-5 is located at the northern base of the RP-5a Refuse Pile. There was no water observed in the pond at the time of the inspection. The embankments were stable with no signs of erosion. The outlet appears unobstructed.

The Raw Water Lagoon is in the southeastern portion of the permit boundary off CR-65 and adjacent to the White River. The pond was frozen at the time of the inspection. There was no evidence of erosion or instability along pond embankments. The pump was running at the time of the inspection.

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

Three refuse piles are active at the Deserado Mine. The RP-2/3/4, RD-5a and RP-A piles. Minor rills were observed on the slopes of RP-2/3/4 and RP-5a. The rills have not yet reached the size of gullies and do not appear to affect the stability of the refuse piles (Photo 6). The rills are typically graded and patched as part of the spring maintenance that occurs at the mine. No other erosional features or displacement were observed on RP-2/3/4 or PR-5a. No indication of displacement, slumping, or other instability was observed in the waste piles. The RP-A refuse pile has waste material stockpiled in windrows (Photo 7). The pile appears stable with no observed erosional features.

ROADS – Rule 4.03
Construction 4.03.1(3)/4.03.2(3), Drainage 4.03.1(4)/4.03.2(4), Surfacing and Maintenance4.03.1(5) and (6)/4.03.2(5) and (6), Reclamation 4.03.1(7)/4.03.2(7):

The Haul Road was clear of snow and well maintained. There we no sections with ruts or other road damage. The road surface was damp and no noticeable amount of dust was generated by haul trucks. The ditches that parallel the roads appear to be unobstructed/stable and able to convey water.

CR-65 had no surface cracks or other indications of road damage due to subsidence. Access roads throughout the mine site were traversed during the inspection. Roads were stable and no erosional features were identified.

SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

Support facilities that were inspected include the main facilities/portals area, B Seam Vent Shaft #1, RDH-2, RDH-4, the conveyor corridor, and Slot Storage. The main facilities for the Deserado mine are composed of three benches. The lower bench contains the mine, office, shop, and portals. The middle bench contains the prep

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 4
Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2

plant and the upper bench contains a materials laydown yard and electric substation. The drainage structures in the main facilities area were functioning correctly. There were no indications of erosional features on the three benches and berms were in good condition. The material laydown yard is well kept and organized (Photo 8). The safety fence surrounding the electric substation was in good condition.

The B Seam Vent Shaft #1 is located north of the main facilities off of the haul road. The pad was stable with no erosional features. The fencing around the shaft to prevent unauthorized entry was in good condition (Photo 9).

The pad for RDH-2 rock dust tank is located to the east of the B Seam Vent Shaft #1. The pad is stable with no erosional features (Photo 10).

The Slot Storage is located in the northern part of the permit area just to the south of the rail loadout. There were no indications of erosion on the pad or on the slopes that contain the Slot Storage. The pad was well kept.

The pad for RDH-4 rock dust tank is located on the north side of the B Seam Dewatering System #1. The pad for the tank was stable with no indications of erosion.

During the inspection the Conveyor Corridor was traversed. The conveyor was running and well maintained. There were no indications of erosion underneath the conveyor.

SIGNS AND MARKERS – Rule 4.02:

The mine identification signs are posted on the entrance to the permit boundary on CR-65. The signs displayed the current contact information for the permittee. The signs also include the assigned DRMS permit number. The ID signs were placed in unobstructed location and the text was clearly legible (Photo 11).

TOPSOIL – Rule 4.06

Removal 4.06.2; Substitute Materials 4.06.4(4); Storage and Protection 4.06.3; Redistribution 4.06.4:

Topsoil stockpiles are located throughout the mine site. Topsoil stockpiles observed during this inspection include the B-Vent Raise, rail loop, and RDH-2 (Photo 12) stockpiles. The stockpiles were protected by vegetation and showed no indications of erosion or instability. Each topsoil pile that was observed had topsoil markers at the top of the pile. The markers are T-posts covered with pieces of white PVC. The markers were placed in visible locations and easy to spot.

DOCUMENTS RECEIVED: None

OTHER (SPECIFY): None

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 4
Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

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

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 4
Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo 1 – Outlet to pond DP-1. Pond was discharging at time of inspection.

Photo 2 – Pond PP-1 near the prep plant. No signs of erosion or instability.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 4
Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2

Photo 3 – Culvert above pond SS-1. Culvert is clear and functions as normal.

Photo 4 – Upper pond of B Seam Dewatering System #2. Minor erosion can be seen on the repaired area in the foreground.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 4
Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2

Photo 5 – Pond RP-4. Embankments are stable.

Photo 56– Waste Pile RP-2/3/4 with minor rills on the slope face.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 4
Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2

Photo 7 – Waste Pile RP-A with waste being stockpiled in windrows.

Photo 8 – Laydown yard in on the top facilities bench. Yard is clean and organized.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 4
Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2

Photo 9 – B Seam Vent #1. Fence prohibits unauthorized entry and pad shows no signs of instability

Photo 10 – RDH-2 pad and rock dust tank. Pad shows no signs of instability.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 4
Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2

Photo 11 – Mine Identification Sign placed at the permit boundary along CR-65.

Photo 12 – Topsoil stockpile at RDH-2. Topsoil is protected by vegetation and is marked with PVC marker.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 4
Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2