



STATE OF  
COLORADO

Trujillo - DNR, Zach <zach.trujillo@state.co.us>

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## Colowyo Inspection Report

1 message

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**Trujillo - DNR, Zach** <zach.trujillo@state.co.us>

Mon, Jan 8, 2024 at 2:20 PM

To: "Tennyson, Tony (Colowyo)" <ttennyson@tristategt.org>

Tony,

Attached is the Division's inspection report for the Colowyo Mine, C-1981-019. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

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

**Zach Trujillo**  
Environmental Protection Specialist

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**1-3-24.pdf**  
651K



## COLORADO


Division of Reclamation,  
Mining and Safety

Department of Natural Resources

### PERMIT INFORMATION

<b>Permit Number:</b> C-1981-019 <b>Mine Name:</b> Colowyo Coal Mine <b>Operator:</b> Colowyo Coal Company L.P. <b>Operator Address:</b> Mr Tony Tennyson 5731 State Highway 13 Meeker, CO 81641	<b>County:</b> Moffat, Rio Blanco <b>Operation Type:</b> Surface <b>Permit Status:</b> Active <b>Ownership:</b> Private
	<b>Operator Representative Present:</b>  Tom Fry
<b>Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)</b>	

### INSPECTION INFORMATION

<b>Inspection Start Date:</b> January 3, 2024 <b>Inspection Start Time:</b> 07:30 <b>Inspection End Date:</b> January 3, 2024 <b>Inspection End Time:</b> 11:30		<b>Inspection Type:</b> Coal Partial inspection (ground visit) with Aerial <b>Inspection Reason:</b> Normal I&E Program <b>Weather:</b> Cloudy	
<b>Joint Inspection Agency:</b>  None		<b>Joint Inspection Contacts:</b>  None	
<b>Post Inspection Agency:</b>  None		<b>Post Inspection Contacts:</b>  None	
<b>Inspector(s):</b>  Zach Trujillo	<b>Inspector's Signature:</b>  		<b>Signature Date:</b>  1/8/24

**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 &amp; Grading

N - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

R - Explosives

N - Fish &amp; Wildlife

R - Hydrologic Balance

R - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Other

N - Processing Waste

R - Roads

R - Reclamation Success

N - Revegetation

N - Subsidence

N - Slides and Other Damage

N - Support Facilities On-site

Y - Signs and Markers

N - Support Facilities Not On-site

N - Special Categories Of Mining

R - Topsoil

**COMMENTS**

This was a partial inspection by the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) of the Colowyo Mine conducted by Zach Trujillo of the Division on January 3, 2024. Tom Fry representing Colowyo Coal Company (Colowyo) accompanied the inspection. The weather during the inspection was cloudy with snow covered ground conditions of around 6 inches. Temperatures during the inspection were around 30 degrees Fahrenheit. Due to adverse ground conditions, access was limited to primary Pit corridors of the Colowyo Mine.

**EXPLOSIVES – Rule 4.08**

Distance Prohibitions 4.08.4; Warnings 4.08.4; Control of Adverse Effects 4.08.4:

Active drilling for a future blast was occurring at the time of the inspection. The area of the blast was along the overburden along the Collom Pit highwall to the south. The blast was not observed during the inspection.



Drilling for future blast at Collom Pit.

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

**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:

The Final East Pit Ditch and North Trib., East Pit Ditch were inspected from the aerial inspection. The ditches are stable and no issues were observed.

Ponds associated with the Gossard Loadout were inspected. This included Gossard and Rail Loop. The Stoker Siding pond was inspected as part of the aerial inspection. Each pond held water with the Gassard and Rail Loop ponds not discharging. The Rail Loop and Gossard Pond are designed for full containment and do not discharge. Discharge could not be inspected at the Stoker Siding Pond from the aerial photos. Each pond was stable with no issues.

The Collom ponds Coal Stockpile, Section 36, Middle and Sidehill were inspected. Section 25 and Section 26 pond were inaccessible at the time of the inspection however were observed during the aerial inspection as stable. All ponds except the Sidehill Pond inspected during the on-the-ground site visit held water with no discharge. All Collom Ponds were stable and no issues were observed.



Final East Pit Ditch and Section 15 Pond.



Middle Pond.

**GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE:**

Highwall mining was occurring within the Little Collom Gulch area. All previously mined entries from the highwall miner were completely backfilled.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 4

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2



Highwall miner.

#### 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):

Road maintenance and support was occurring throughout the site. This included plowing operations and graveling along haul routes.

#### RECLAMATION SUCCESS - Rule 4.15, Rule 3:

The West Pit was inspected by the air. Overall, the reclamation was stable with no signs of slumping or general instability. No issues were observed.

#### 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 piles 16D and 26A were inspected. Topsoil placement on 16D has occurred from the recent construction of the Section 15 Pond and associated ditch. Topsoil 26A is associated with the Collom Pit and has received topsoil placement from the Collom Pit progression. Each pile has been shaped however due to the timing of inclement weather, seeding did not occur on the newly applied topsoil of these piles. Based on discussions with the mine representative, future seeding is planned once weather allows for successful reseeding. Each pile has established vegetation along the majority of the area and is also encompassed by a ring ditch to ensure topsoil stays within the approved footprint and is preserved.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 4

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2