STATE OF COLORADO

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

January Inspection

1 message

Jesse - DNR, Todd <todd.jesse@state.co.us> Wed, Jan 10, 2024 at 10:29 AM
To: kblunt@deserado.com
Cc: Travis Marshall - DNR <travis.marshall@state.co.us>, Clayton Wein - DNR <clayton.wein@state.co.us>, "Hernandez - DNR, Alysha" <alysha.hernandez@state.co.us>

Good morning Kurt,

The Division did an aerial inspection of Deserado on January 3rd and the inspection report is attached. 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

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Environmental Protection Specialist
Minerals Program, Grand Junction Field Office

2024-01-10_Inspection Report_c1981018.pdf
2655K

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: NA
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: January 3, 2024 **Inspection Start Time:** 13:20 **Inspection End Date:** January 3, 2024 **Inspection End Time:** 13:30	**Inspection Type:** Aerial 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 Brock Bowles		1/10/24

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

COMMENTS

This was an aerial inspection of the Deserado Mine conducted on January 3, 2024. This inspection report was written by Todd Jesse of the Division. The aerial photographs were taken by Brock Bowles of the Division. The weather was clear and the ground conditions were snow covered.

FISH and WILDLIFE – Rule 4.18

Ungulate tracks can be seen in Pond RP-2/3 and the adjacent road. A number of tracks from either small mammals or waterfowl can also been seen on the ice in the ponds that make up the B Seam Dewatering System No. 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:

There are three ponds located in the main facilities area: the DP-1 Pond, the PP-1 Pond and the PP-2 Pond. The DP-1 pond was frozen at the time of inspection. The embankments appear stable with vegetative cover showing through the snow. There were no erosional concerns identified. The PP-2 Pond was also frozen. The embankment was stable with no erosional features identified. The outlet structure was in good condition with no vegetation obscuring the outlet. The PP-1 Pond is located on the middle bench of the facilities area. The pond was covered by processing plant structures during the areal inspection. (Photo 1)

The B Seam Dewatering System No. 1 was active during the inspection. Cells were impounding water and the lower cells were frozen and snow covered. Embankments of the cells were stable with no erosional featured noted. The Last Chance Pond appears to be at the approximate level of the discharge. (Photo 2)

The B Seam Dewatering System No. 2 is located to the east of the Slot Storage. The system was inactive during the inspection. The first cell was snow covered with no indications of water being present. The main cell was holding a small amount of water below the level of discharge. The water was frozen and snow covered. The embankments of the pond were stable with no indications of erosion. (Photo 3)

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Two ponds, SS-1 and SS-2, are located to the north of the Slot Storage facility. Both ponds were snow covered at the time of inspection. The embankments were also snow covered, but appeared stable. There were no erosional features identified. The outlets of the ponds were clear of debris. (Photo 4)

The RS-1 Sump and the RR-1 Pond are located at the south side of the Rail Loadout. The RS-1 Sump was snow covered at the time of the inspection. There were no indications of erosion. The RR-1 Pond was also snow covered during the inspection. The embankments of the pond seem stable with no erosional features noted. (Photo 4)

Refuse Disposal Area RP-A has one sediment pond located at its eastern end. The RP-A Pond was snow covered during the inspection. The embankment was stable and no erosional features were noted. (Photo 5)

Pond RP-1 is located at the base of the reclaimed RP-1 Refuse Pile. The pond was snow covered during the inspection. The embankments of the pond were stable with no indications of erosion observed. There was no debris on the trash rack over the pond's outlet. (Photo 6)

Two ponds are located at the northern base of Refuse Pile RP-2/3/4. The RP -2/3 Pond (Photo 7) is located on the pile's northeast corner. The Pond consists of three cells. All three cells were snow covered. There were no erosional features identified. The channels above the ponds were snow covered, but clear of debris. No erosional features were noted on the embankments of the conveyance ditches. The trash rack was clear of debris. The RP-4 Pond is located at the northwest base of the pile. The pond was snow covered during the inspection. The embankments were stable and no erosional concerns were identified. The outlet for the RP-4 Pond is capped with a trash rack. The outlet was clear of debris.

Pond RP-5 is located at the northern base of the RP-5a Refuse Pile. The pond was snow covered at the time of the inspection. The embankments of the pond appear stable, and no indications of erosion were observed. The outlet was clear of obstructions. (Photo 8)

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

The RP-A Refuse Pile was snow covered during the inspection. Refuse on the top of the RP-A Refuse Pile appears to have been spread and compacted. The pile was mostly snow covered during the inspection. The pile is stable and no erosional features were noted. (Photo 5)

During the inspection refuse material was being placed on the RP-2/3/4 Refuse Pile in windrows. The pile was stable. Erosion on the slopes of the pile has been noted in previous Division inspection reports. The rills have not significantly enlarged since the last inspection. (Photo 8)

Refuse on the top of the RP-5a Pile has been spread and compacted. The pile was snow covered and stable during the inspection. Erosion on the slopes of the pile has been noted in previous Division reports. Similar to the RP-2/3/4 Refuse Pile, these rills have not significantly enlarged since the last inspection. There were no signs of displacement or slumping on the refuse pile. (Photo 8)

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

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(6)/4.03.2(5) and (6), Reclamation 4.03.1(7)/4.03.2(7):

The haul road was plowed and in good condition during the inspection. The road was stable and there were no erosional features identified. Access roads throughout the rest of the mine are mostly snow covered. There were no erosional concerns identified. (Photo 9)

SUPPORT FACILITIES – Rule 4.03

Support facilities inspected include:

- Main facilities/Portals Area (Photo 1)
- Explosives Storage (Photo 1)
- Radio Tower/Water Tanks (Photo 9)
- Conveyor Corridor/Transfer Buildings (Photo 9)
- Slot Storage (Photo 4)
- Rail Load Out (Photo 4)
- RDH-4 (Photo 2)
- Nitrogen Plant No. 2 (Photo 4)

Pads for the support facilities were snow covered and observed to be stable with no erosional features. Berms surrounding pads appear to be stable. The Division did not observe any off-site impacts.

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 RA-4 through RA-8 are located next to the RP-2/3/4 and RP-5a Refuse Piles. These topsoil stockpiles were covered with snow during the inspection. There were no indications of erosion or instability observed on any of these stockpiles. (Photo 10)

DOCUMENTS RECEIVED: None

OTHER (SPECIFY): None

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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: Facilities area showing the DP-1 and PP-2 Ponds.

Photo 2: B Seam Dewatering System No 1. With RDH-4 in the foreground.

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Photo 3: B Seam Dewatering System No. 2

Photo 4: Slot Storage Facility and Rail Load Out. Nitrogen Plan No. 2 is to the south of the Slot Storage Facility. Ponds SS-1 and SS-2 are just to the north of the Slot Storage. Sump RS-1 and the RR-1 Pond are just to the south of the Rail Load Out

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Photo 5: RP-A Refuse Pile with the RP-A Pond in the foreground.

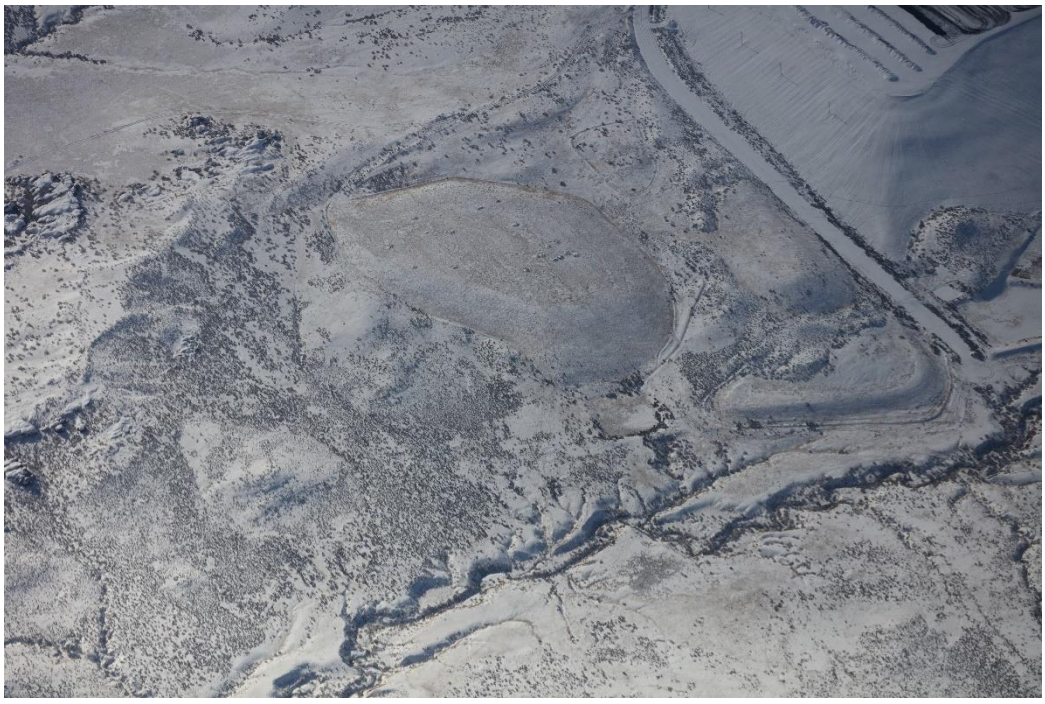

Photo 6: Reclaimed RP-1 Refuse Pile with RP-1 Pond to the north.

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Photo 7: RP-2/3 Pond on the northeast corner of RP-2/3/4 Refuse Pile. Animal tracks can be seen in the pond and adjacent road.

Photo 8: RP-2/3/4 and RP-5 Refuse Piles. The RP-2/3, RP-4, and RP-5a Ponds can also be seen in the photo.

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Photo 9: Haul road and conveyor corridor. Water tanks and radio tower can also been seen.

Photo 10: Topsoil Stockpiles RA-4 through RA-8.

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