

**STATE OF
COLORADO****West - DNR, Lucas <lucas.west@state.co.us>**

C-1981-008 New Horizon January Partial Inspection Report

1 message

West - DNR, Lucas <lucas.west@state.co.us>

Mon, Jan 29, 2024 at 3:10 PM

To: "Tennyson, Tony (Colowyo)" <ttennyson@tristategt.org>, Clayton Wein - DNR <clayton.wein@state.co.us>, DNR
DRMS_CoalAdmin - DNR <dnr_drms_coal_admin@state.co.us>

Good Afternoon Tony,

As promised, attached is the report for New Horizon. Things there look awesome as well, your guys did really great work. I had no maintenance items or anything else for you here, please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks,
Lucas

Lucas West

Environmental Protection Specialist

Minerals Program, Grand Junction Field Office



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

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C-1981-008 Jan 2024 Partial Inspection Report.pdf


1332K



PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1981-008 Mine Name: New Horizon Mine Operator: Elk Ridge Mining and Reclamation, LLC Operator Address: Mr Tony Tennyson P.O. Box 628 27646 West 5th Avenue Nucla, CO 81424	County: Montrose Operation Type: Surface Permit Status: Active Ownership: Private
	Operator Representative Present: Mindy Sickles
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) 	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: January 23, 2024 Inspection Start Time: 11:30 Inspection End Date: January 23, 2024 Inspection End Time: 11:55	Inspection Type: Coal Partial 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): Lucas West	Inspector's Signature:  Signature Date: 1/29/2024

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

R - Backfill & Grading

N - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

N - Explosives

N - Fish & Wildlife

R - Hydrologic Balance

N - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Other

N - Processing Waste

N - 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

R - Topsoil

COMMENTS

This was a partial inspection conducted by Lucas West of the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety's Active Mines Program. The site is in final reclamation however no reclamation activities were taking place at the time of the inspection. The weather was clear and muddy. Mindy Sickles accompanied the inspection and represented the Operator. Five Photos accompany this report to illustrate the observed site conditions.

The overall footprint of the site is in excellent condition. The Operator and it's contractors have done an exemplary job at conducting reclamation efforts. No maintenance items or problems were noted during this inspection.

BACKFILL and GRADING – Rule 4.14

Contemporaneous Reclamation 4.14.1; Approximate Original Contour 4.14.2; Highwall Elimination 4.14.1(2)(f); Steep Slopes 4.14.2, 4.27; Handling of Acid and Toxic Materials 4.14.3; Stabilization of Rills and Gullies 4.14.6:

The main focus of this inspection was to observe the condition of the backfilling, topsoil replacement and seeding efforts that were recently concluded in the Section 36 area. At the time of the inspection all reclamation work in this area had been completed and no equipment was present on site. Of all the areas observed from the vantage point of the Pond 13 access road due to muddy conditions, there were no signs of settling, slumping or erosion. The reclaimed areas are in excellent condition and were seeded in the fall of 2023 prior to snowfall. Evidence of seeding was visible and undisturbed. Examples of the reclaimed area can be seen in Photos One through Three. The reclaimed topography consists of gently sloping hills with storm water control structures installed.

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:

In the reclaimed area, a few stormwater control structures have been installed, including a small drainage ditch with a culvert as it passes under the access road. The small drainage ditch as well as the culvert are in excellent condition and shows no evidence of recent flow.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 5

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2

At the end of the access road, Pond 013 was observed to be in good condition and can be seen in Photo Four. Water was flowing into the pond via the aeration structure, which was functioning as designed. The pond banks and baffle curtains appeared stable at the time of the inspection, and the vegetation in the surrounding area was also in good condition.

TOPSOIL – Rule 4.06

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

At the Johnson Property Topsoil Stockpile area, almost all the material was utilized during the reclamation efforts. Only one small stockpile of mixed topsoil, shown in Photo Five, remains. The stockpile appears stable and shows evidence of seeding for stabilization. A portion of the ring berm around the stockpile was visible and functioning as designed, however due to muddy conditions, the entire perimeter of the pile was not observed.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo One: View East, showing an example of the reclaimed area in Section 36. all the areas show no signs of settling, slumping or erosion and are in excellent condition.

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Photo Four: View West, showing Pond 013, as well as the rock structure leading to the pond. All elements of the pond are in excellent condition.



Photo Five: View Southwest, showing the last remaining topsoil stockpile in the Johnson Property Storage Area. The stockpile is small, appears stable and is in good condition.

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