



STATE OF  
COLORADO

Simmons - DNR, Leigh <leigh.simmons@state.co.us>

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## C1981022, Elk Creek Mine, January Inspection Report

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**Simmons - DNR, Leigh** <leigh.simmons@state.co.us>

Wed, Jan 31, 2024 at 2:30 PM

To: Doug Smith <Doug.Smith@oxbow.com>

Attached

Leigh Simmons  
Environmental Protection Specialist



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

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**INSP-REPORTC\_C1981022\_LDS\_01312024021825.pdf**


601K



**PERMIT INFORMATION**

<b>Permit Number:</b> C-1981-022 <b>Mine Name:</b> Elk Creek Mine <b>Operator:</b> Oxbow Mining, LLC <b>Operator Address:</b> Mr Doug Smith 3737 Hwy 133 P. O. Box 535 Somerset, CO 81434	<b>County:</b> Delta, Gunnison <b>Operation Type:</b> Underground <b>Permit Status:</b> Active <b>Ownership:</b> Private
	<b>Operator Representative Present:</b>  Doug Smith
<b>Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)</b>  	

**INSPECTION INFORMATION**

<b>Inspection Start Date:</b> January 25, 2024 <b>Inspection Start Time:</b> 13:00 <b>Inspection End Date:</b> <b>Inspection End Time:</b>	<b>Inspection Type:</b> Coal Partial Inspection <b>Inspection Reason:</b> Normal I&E Program <b>Weather:</b> Clear
<b>Joint Inspection Agency:</b>  None	<b>Joint Inspection Contacts:</b>  
<b>Post Inspection Agency:</b>  None	<b>Post Inspection Contacts:</b>  
<b>Inspector(s):</b>  Leigh Simmons	<b>Inspector's Signature:</b>   <b>Signature Date:</b>  January 31, 2024

**Inspection Topic Summary**

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

N - Air Resource Protection

N - Roads

N - Availability of Records

N - Reclamation Success

N - Backfill &amp; Grading

N - Revegetation

N - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

N - Subsidence

N - Explosives

N - Slides and Other Damage

N - Fish &amp; Wildlife

R - 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

N - Processing Waste

N - Topsoil

**COMMENTS**

This was a partial inspection by Leigh Simmons of the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division). The weather was clear and mild. The status of the Elk Creek Mine is “active” however no coal is being mined and the only activity since the last inspection was site maintenance.

**GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE:**

Oxbow were considering moving one of the four methane flares from the Bear Creek facility to a new site in Hubbard Creek below the old Blue Ribbon mine portal. This would not be a mine facility and would not be under the Division’s jurisdiction, but the mine permit would need to be updated with a Minor Revision to describe the facility since it would be within the permit area.

**SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:**

Flares at the Elk Creek methane facility were operating, but the generator wasn’t running.

The old portal heaters stored at the upper Elk Creek pad have been sold, but not yet removed from the site.

No further work had been done to remove the sub-station.

**DOCUMENTS RECEIVED**

N/A

**OTHER (SPECIFY)**

N/A

**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: 5

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2

## **PHOTOGRAPHS**



*Figure 1: Lower section of reclaimed Elk Creek channel*

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 5

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2