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C1980007, West Elk Mine, January Inspection Report

Simmons - DNR, Leigh <leigh.simmons@state.co.us> To: "Wilczek, Jessica" <jwilczek@archrsc.com>

Thu, Feb 1, 2024 at 11:44 AM

Attached

Leigh Simmons Environmental Protection Specialist



COLORADO

Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety

Department of Natural Resources

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INSP-REPORTC_C1980007_LDS_02012024112229.pdf



PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1980-007 Mine Name: West Elk Mine Operator: Mountain Coal Company, LLC Operator Address: Ms Jessica Wilczek 5174 Highway 133 Somerset, CO 81434	County: Delta, Gunnison Operation Type: Underground Permit Status: Active Ownership: Private Operator Representative Present: Chase Hiatt	
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)		

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: January 20 Inspection Start Time: 09:00 Inspection End Date: Inspection End Time:	6, 2024		Inspection Type: Coal Partial Inspection Inspection Reason: Normal I&E Program Weather: Cloudy
Joint Inspection Agency: Joint Inspection Agency:		Join	Inspection Contacts:
None			
Post Inspection Agency:		Post Inspection Contacts:	
None			
Inspector(s):	Inspector's Signature: Signature Date:		
Leigh Simmons	Di		February 1, 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 & Grading N - Revegetation

N - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste
N - Subsidence
N - Slides and Other Damage

N - Fish & Wildlife
R - Support Facilities On-site
N - Fish & Wildlife
N - Signs and Markers

R - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan
 N - Support Facilities Not On-site
 N - Other
 N - Special Categories Of Mining

R - Processing Waste N - Topsoil

COMMENTS

This was a partial inspection by Leigh Simmons of the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division). Chase Hiatt of Mountain Coal Company (MCC) accompanied the inspection. The weather was overcast. The mine was active.

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:

MCC reported that their hydrology consultant had noted that a flume above Minnesota Reservoir had been inundated by beaver dams. MCC will investigate further.

GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE:

Longwall mining of the LWE15 panel was complete. A longwall move to the LWE12 panel had been successfully completed in 15 days (a record for the mine) and mining was in progress, at around crosscut 19 on the headgate.

Development of the B North Shaft was in progress.

MCC continued to manage a large amount of coal fines, but no new fines were being generated from the coal mined in the LWE12 panel, which was not being washed. Existing fines were gradually being blended into the coal loaded onto trains at a rate of \sim 10-20%, as contract specifications and weather conditions allow. MCC estimated that 230,000-240,000 tons of stockpiled fines were on site.

PROCESSING WASTE/COAL MINE WASTE PILES - Rule 4.10 and 4.11

Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization; Placement:

The wash plant was not in use at the time of the inspection, so no new processing waste was being generated. Transport of material from the temporary stockpile on the RPE to the RPEE had been completed. The material had been loosely piled on the western edge of the compacted surface of the RPEE, with as small a footprint as possible. No attempt was being made to compact the new material. Refuse pile contractors had

constructed temporary water bars on the RPEE haul road, parked their equipment, and left the site.

SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

A third party audit of the coal silos had revealed some structural issues which will need to be addressed. The Division will expect a Technical Revision to be submitted with details of the re-designed silos when the plan has been developed.

Construction of the Box Canyon North Well had resumed. The drill rig was on-site.

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.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Figure 1: Loosely piled material on RPEE (1 of 3)



Figure 2: Loosely piled material on RPEE (2 of 3)



Figure 3: Loosely piled material on RPEE (3 of 3)



Figure 4: All material moved from temporary stockpile on RPE



Figure 5: RPE pond



Figure 6: Box Canyon North Well under construction

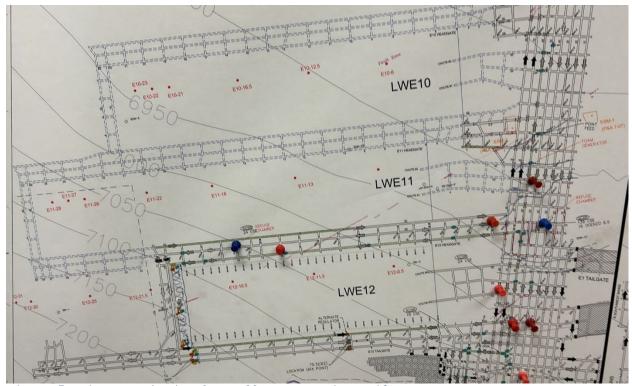


Figure 7: Mine map showing longwall progress in LWE12



Figure 8: Mine map showing development progress B North Shaft