



STATE OF
COLORADO

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

C1980007, West Elk Mine, January Inspection Report

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Thu, Feb 1, 2024 at 11:44 AM

To: "Wilczek, Jessica" <jwilczek@archrsc.com>

Attached

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Division of Reclamation,
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INSP-REPORTC_C1980007_LDS_02012024112229.pdf


2372K



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 26, 2024 Inspection Start Time: 09:00 Inspection End Date: Inspection End Time:	Inspection Type: Coal Partial Inspection Inspection Reason: Normal I&E Program Weather: Cloudy
Joint Inspection Agency: None	Joint Inspection Contacts:
Post Inspection Agency: None	Post Inspection Contacts:
Inspector(s): Leigh Simmons	Inspector's Signature:  Signature Date: 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 - Availability of Records

N - Backfill & Grading

N - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

N - Explosives

N - Fish & Wildlife

R - Hydrologic Balance

R - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Other

R - Processing Waste

N - Roads

N - Reclamation Success

N - Revegetation

N - Subsidence

N - Slides and Other Damage

R - Support Facilities On-site

N - Signs and Markers

N - Support Facilities Not On-site

N - Special Categories Of Mining

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 ~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

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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.

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PHOTOGRAPHS



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



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

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



Figure 4: All material moved from temporary stockpile on RPE

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Figure 5: RPE pond



Figure 6: Box Canyon North Well under construction

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