



STATE OF  
COLORADO

Trujillo - DNR, Zach <zach.trujillo@state.co.us>

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## Colowyo Mine Inspection Report

1 message

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**Trujillo - DNR, Zach** <zach.trujillo@state.co.us>

Thu, Feb 1, 2024 at 3:19 PM

To: "Tennyson, Tony (Colowyo)" <ttennyson@tristategt.org>

Tony,

Please see the attached inspection report for the Colowyo Mine, C-1981-019. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out.

Sincerely,

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

**Zach Trujillo**  
Environmental Protection Specialist

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**1-25-24.pdf**

738K

**PERMIT INFORMATION**

<b>Permit Number:</b> C-1981-019 <b>Mine Name:</b> Colowyo Coal Mine <b>Operator:</b> Colowyo Coal Company L.P. <b>Operator Address:</b> Mr Tony Tennyson 5731 State Highway 13 Meeker, CO 81641	<b>County:</b> Moffat, Rio Blanco <b>Operation Type:</b> Surface <b>Permit Status:</b> Active <b>Ownership:</b> Private
	<b>Operator Representative Present:</b>  Tony Tennyson and Tom Fry
<b>Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)</b>  	

**INSPECTION INFORMATION**

<b>Inspection Start Date:</b> January 25, 2024 <b>Inspection Start Time:</b> 07:30 <b>Inspection End Date:</b> January 25, 2024 <b>Inspection End Time:</b> 11:00		<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>  None	
<b>Post Inspection Agency:</b>  None		<b>Post Inspection Contacts:</b>  None	
<b>Inspector(s):</b>  Zach Trujillo	<b>Inspector's Signature:</b>  		<b>Signature Date:</b>  2/1/24

## 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  
R - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste  
R - Explosives  
N - Fish & Wildlife  
R - Hydrologic Balance  
R - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan  
N - Other  
N - Processing Waste

R - Roads  
N - Reclamation Success  
N - Revegetation  
N - Subsidence  
N - Slides and Other Damage  
R - Support Facilities On-site  
Y - Signs and Markers  
N - Support Facilities Not On-site  
N - Special Categories Of Mining  
Y - Topsoil

## COMMENTS

This was a complete inspection by the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) of the Colowyo Mine conducted by Zach Trujillo of the Division on January 25, 2024. Tom Fry representing Colowyo Coal Company (Colowyo) accompanied the inspection. The weather during the inspection was clear and ground conditions were snow covered with approximately 6+ inches in depth throughout the site. As the day progressed, temperatures rose causing snow melt and extremely muddy conditions. Due to snow depths and muddy conditions, access was limited to the primary areas of the site. Temperatures during the inspection were between 20 - 40 degrees fahrenheit.

### 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:

Backfill operations are currently occurring in the South Taylor Pit. The eastern end of the pit is being backfilled by truck and excavator operations from the South Taylor Temporary Spoil Pile.

Additional fill placement was observed along the entrance of the eastern section of the Collom Pit. It appeared this spoil was to ramp up to from the current elevation of the Collom in-pit haul road to this portion of the Collom Pit. No issues were observed.



Excavator on top of South Taylor Spoil Pile.



Fill placement at along entrance Collm Pit haul road.

## EXCESS SPOIL and DEVELOPMENT WASTE – Rule 4.09

Placement; Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization:

Excess spoil was being hauled by truck/shovel operations to the Collom Spoil Pile. Spoil was currently being placed just above the northwestern section of the Collom Pit highwall.



Spoil placement above Collom Pit.



Spoil placement above Collom Pit.

## EXPLOSIVES – Rule 4.08

Distance Prohibitions 4.08.4; Warnings 4.08.4; Control of Adverse Effects 4.08.4:

Marked blast holes were observed in overburden along the southern portion of the Collom Pit. The blast was not observed and did not occur during the inspection.



Blast holes at Collom Pit.

## 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:

Due to adverse ground conditions, only the following ponds were inspected:



## Collom

Section 36 and Middle Pond were inspected from above along the Collom Haul Road. Both ponds held water however it was unclear to what amount. Both ponds were stable with no issues observed.

## Gossard Loadout

Ponds associated with the Gossard Loadout were inspected. This included the Stoker Siding, Gossard and Rail Loop. Each pond held water during the inspection. The Rail Loop and Gossard Pond are designed for full containment and do not discharge. Discharge could not be observed at the Stoker Siding Pond from the vantage point of the picture. Each pond was stable with no issues.



Section 36 Pond.



Stoker Siding Pond.

## GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE:

Highwall mining operations were currently in the Little Collom Gulch operating to west. Operations appear to moving to the north based on the previous Division's inspection.



Highwall mining operations in Little Collom Gulch.

## ROADS – Rule 4.03

Construction 4.03.1(3)/4.03.2(3), Drainage 4.03.1(4)/4.03.2(4), Surfacing and Maintenance 4.03.1(5) and (6)/4.03.2(5) and (6), Reclamation 4.03.1(7)/4.03.2(7):

Road maintenance in support of haul routes was observed. Scraper with road gravel was being dispersed along spoil haul routes along the in-pit haul roads within Collom.

SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

Collom facility area was inspected. The area is stable with proper drainage being directed to the Coal Stockpile pond or to the Section 36 Pond.

### **ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE**

No enforcement actions were initiated as a result of this inspection, nor are any pending.