



Moffat County Mining, LLC

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Ms. Robin Reilley
Environmental Protection Specialist
Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety
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February 14, 2024

RE: Moffat County Mining, LLC. – Williams Fork Mines (Permit C-81-044), 2023 Annual Reclamation Report (ARR)

Dear Ms. Reilley:

Attached and submitted via Laserfiche is the 2023 Annual Reclamation Report for the Williams Fork Mines (formerly Eagle 5 & 9 Mines). In May 2013, Moffat County Mining, LLC (MCM) submitted a request and supporting documentation to place the property in “Temporary Cessation” status (TR13-35). The CDRMS approved this request in July 2013. Under the Temporary Cessation status, no new disturbance or reclamation occurred during the period 2013 through 2016, and site activities were limited to ongoing site maintenance, monitoring under a reduced schedule, and required quarterly inspections. In November 2016, MCM notified the CDRMS of plans to initiate site reclamation activities, and the change in property status from Temporary Cessation to Active Reclamation. The site was actively reclaimed from 2016 to 2023 when the final reclamation was completed.

Permitting Activity

The permit renewal, RN8, was the only permitting activity to occur in 2023. RN8 is expected to be final in February 2024.

Site Reclamation History

Late in 2016, MCM’s contractor initiated limited site demolition activities, dismantling the conveyor and related structures in the 5A/6 Portal Area. The conveyor equipment and structures were staged on-site and subsequently loaded and transported to Peabody’s Sage Creek property for long-term storage and potential future re-use. The site demolition activities continued during 2017 with demolition and removal of the 5A/6 portal structures, the conveyor and related structures from the 5A/6 Portal Area to the Stacking Tube and from the Stacking Tube to the Coal Silo, the Stacking Tube, the coal handling structures, and the de-icing system. The rails, ties and ballast have been removed from the rail spur, and demolition and removal of the bridge deck for the railroad bridge over the Williams Fork River has been completed.

An experienced explosive demolition contractor was hired to demolish the Stacking Tube and Coal Silo. Both were shot at the same time, with successful demolition of the Stacking Tube, however the Coal Silo did not completely collapse, and remains standing (although deflected at an angle in the planned direction of fall). The contractor developed a plan to safely complete demolition of the Silo, and the plan was reviewed by an independent third-party engineering firm. The contractor completed demolition of the Silo during early-second quarter 2018, reinforcing steel was removed from the concrete demolition debris for salvage, and the remaining concrete debris was hauled to the 5A/6 Portal area for permanent disposal.

Other reclamation activities completed during 2018 include removal of the remaining bridge structure over the Williams Fork River; removal of the railroad scale-house and most of the rail-bed; removal, regrading, and topsoiling of the 3-cell water treatment pond system; removal of the steel framework and siding from the Shop/Warehouse Building; partial demolition and burial of the coal reclaim tunnel and burial of a portion of the remaining coal fines from the coal stockpile area, with the remainder going to the coal refuse pile; capping of the eastern-most coal refuse pile; partial backfill and regrading of the wastewater treatment ponds; and removal of the powerlines from the pole structures on the east side of State Highway 13.

In 2019 contractors continued to reclaim the site. The ballast from the railroad bed was pile onsite and washed for reuse off site by the contractor. The warehouse/ shop buildings and associated foundations were removed in 2019. Both buildings were disassembled for use at a later date. The concrete foundations were crushed, and the rebar was separated out. The rebar was hauled off as scrap metal and the concrete was placed in the 5A portal. The entire west side of Highway 13 was graded out to final grade and topsoil was place throughout at an average of 8 inches. MCM was only able to get half of the top soiled areas seeded prior to winter hitting. The area was seed with the recently approved hayland mix with the anticipation of the land being irrigated to produce a hay crop. The coal refuse pile was capped with two feet of cover material in the fall of 2019.

In 2020 reclamation was put on hold due to pandemic conditions that limited cashflow and contractor availability. In the fall of 2020 seeding commenced to finish the seeding of the river bottom parcels. In late fall it was decided to finish the reclamation of the refuse pile as contractors became available. The refuse pile was covered and topsoil but was not seeded.

In 2021 seeding was completed for the refuse pile in spring. Contractor availability continued to be an issue. The large steel water, propane tank and powerlines were scrapped by the local scrap yard. Minor work commenced at the portal to prep the area for regrading.

In 2022 the portal grading was completed. Top soil was redistributed on the portal area and surrounding area and the substation area for a total of 24.6 acres. This completes the B&G for the Williams Fork Disturbances.

In 2023 the active site reclamation was wrapped up with seeding of the 5A portal. In addition to the portal the substation area and the 7NA well area were also seeded. These seedings concluded the reclamation and the site will remain in care and maintenance for the remaining bond period.

Monitoring and Maintenance

During 2006, the frequency of surface and ground water monitoring was increased to provide updated hydrologic information, in the event that Peabody Energy (MCM's parent company) decided to pursue further exploration and feasibility evaluations for the Williams Fork property, and the more intensive hydrologic monitoring continued during 2007 through 2012. The monitoring program was scaled-back during the period of limited activity from 2013 through 2016, and then returned to the full monitoring schedule once active reclamation activities were initiated in late 2016.

Ongoing maintenance activities include inspection and clean-out of drainage structures (as needed), and focused weed control activities under our Noxious Weed Management Program. Limited rodent-control activities occurred during 2023.

In 2023, weed spraying was completed by the site agricultural leasee and Osborn Industries. Primary targeted weed species included Russian knapweed, hoary cress (white-top), Canadian thistle, and hound's-tongue. Spraying was conducted in June, July and August.

Land Management and Bond Release

In 2020 -2023 no grazing was permitted where reclamation has been completed. Some areas of reclamation were briefly grazed due to poor fence maintenance by adjacent cattle operation.

A bond release application was prepared for submittal in September 2016 for several areas that had been reclaimed in the 1980's, including the Williams Fork Strip Pit, Utah Tract, and several smaller areas. After initial review, the bond release was put on hold since some of the revegetation success sampling was considered outdated. Subsequently, MCM contracted with ESCO Associates and their successor, Cedar Creek Associates, to complete supplemental revegetation success sampling, consistent with applicable permit requirements, and in support of a pending bond release application. The phase III sampling effort included; Utah Tract (pre- and post-law) and Williams Fork Strip Pit (pre- and post-law), Revegetation success sampling was conducted in 2014 and 2015, and the final sampling report was received in 2016. Based on favorable sampling results, MCM submitted a bond release for the areas. The bond release inspection took place in June of 2019 and was approved in April 2021.

Following seeding of the river bottom in 2020, a phase I bond release (SL5) was submitted for areas that have been seeded. This included 176.7 acres of phase one parcels. This bond release was approved in February of 2021.

MCM anticipates SL6 to be submitted in the Spring of 2024 for a phase I and phase II release of eligible areas.

Attached are copies of the standard form (CDRMS) Annual Reclamation Report for 2023. If you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,
For Moffat County Mining, LLC

Miranda Kawcak

Miranda Kawcak
Environmental Manager