



YOAST MINE
Colorado Permit #C-1994-082

2023 Annual Reclamation Report
January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023

Submitted: **February 2024**

**YOAST MINE
2023 ANNUAL RECLAMATION REPORT**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>2023 DISTURBANCE AREA</u>	3
<u>BACKFILLING AND GRADING</u>	3
<u>SOIL AND SPOIL MONITORING</u>	3
Soil Recovery Documentation	3
Soil Replacement Thickness	3
Soil Pit – Soil Fertility/Spoil Suitability	3
Soil Balance	3
Soil Salvage and Storage.....	3
Soil Replacement.....	3
Soil Replacement Thickness.....	3
<u>REVEGETATION</u>	4
Seeding and Shrub Planting.....	6
Monitoring.....	6
Weed Control.....	6
Grazing.....	6
<u>CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF REVEGETATION</u>	6
<u>SEDIMENTATION POND SURVEYS</u>	7
<u>STOCK TANKS AND SURGE CONTROL STRUCTURES</u>	7
<u>WILDLIFE MONITORING</u>	7

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1	Soil Stockpile Volumes
Table 2	Seneca Sediment Ponds – Water Capacity Trends

LIST OF MAPS

** Refer to the 2014 Annual Reclamation Report for the following, unchanged maps:*

- *2014 Annual Reclamation Report Topsoil Map*
- *2014 Annual Reclamation Report Planned Reclamation Activities Map*
- *2014 Annual Reclamation Report Chronological Seeding Map*

** Refer to the 2012 Annual Reclamation Report for the following, unchanged maps:*

- *Annual Reclamation Graded Areas Map*
- *Topography Map*

ATTACHMENTS

2023 Weed Control Logs

YOAST MINE 2023 ANNUAL RECLAMATION REPORT (ARR)

2023 DISTURBANCE AREA

There were no additional acres disturbed during 2023. The total disturbed area in 2014 (2014 ARR) was calculated at 848.6 acres. A Bond Release Tracking Initiative initiated by Seneca Property, LLC (SP) in 2014 consolidated all previous mapping information in a GIS (Geographic Information System) format, resulting in a corrected disturbance area of 850.5 acres. For 2023, the physical disturbance boundaries and areas are the same as shown on the 2014 Planned Reclamation Map.

BACKFILLING AND GRADING

No additional areas were backfilled and graded in 2023.

SOIL AND SPOIL MONITORING

SP is required to monitor soil and spoil handling operations, including salvage, storage, and redistribution of soil/spoil for Yoast Mine. In 2023, no soil or spoil material was salvaged, stored, or redistributed and no soil/spoil sampling or monitoring was conducted.

Soil Recovery Documentation. No additional soil or spoil was salvaged during 2023, since no new disturbance occurred.

2021 Soil Replacement Thickness. No soil or spoil materials were replaced during 2023.

Soil Pit - Soil Fertility and Spoil Suitability. Given that no soil or spoil materials were replaced, no soil fertility or spoil suitability samples were collected or analyzed in 2023.

Soil Balance. Given that no additional soil/spoil salvage or replacement occurred during 2023, the previously calculated soil balance remains unchanged. It should be noted that the revised disturbance acreage previously noted does not affect the soil balance carried forward from previous ARR's. Soil/spoil materials have been replaced on all mining disturbance areas not identified for permanent retention to support the approved postmining land use(s). Remaining soil/spoil stockpiles are associated with the identified permanent retention areas.

Soil Salvage and Storage. The life-of-mine disturbance area from which topsoil was salvaged (850.5 acres) and the topsoil stockpile sites as of December 31, 2014 are shown on the 2014 Topsoil Replacement map. The stockpile volumes are listed in Table 1, Soil Stockpile Volumes. As of December 31, 2023, there were 36.7 acre-feet of stockpiled topsoil remaining in the mining area.

Soil Replacement. No soil was replaced during 2023.

Soil Replacement Thickness. Dividing the stockpiled soil volume available by the remaining disturbance area (designated for permanent retention), the soil material balance provides for a soil replacement depth approximately 7.5 feet for the remaining disturbance areas. This generalized soil balance does not account for any area variations or for permanent facilities not requiring topsoil; it is strictly an area-wide average. The remaining disturbance area essentially corresponds to the mine entrance

road and drainage structures, which if not retained as a permanent feature to support the postmining land use, would be reclaimed.

The soil/spoil material balance as of December 31, 2023 for the remaining life-of-mine is calculated as follows:

Mine Area Summary

Total disturbance area	= 850.5 acres
Areas where soil has been replaced	= 845.6 acres
Remaining disturbance area requiring soil	= 4.9 acres
Soil in stockpiles (Table 13.1)	= 36.7 ac-ft
Mean replacement depth available	= 7.5 feet (90 inches)

During 2007, topsoil thickness sampling was conducted over the topsoiled area on a 500-ft. grid. Refer to the 2007 Yoast Mine Annual Reclamation Report. The overall average soil replacement depth for the areas reclaimed to date is 21.4 inches. The 21.4 inches is consistent with the premining projections of 21.6 inches.

TABLE 1 - SOIL STOCKPILE VOLUMES (as of 12/31/2016)						
Stockpile ID	2008 Volume (ac-ft)	2009 Volume (ac-ft)	2010 Volume (ac-ft)	2011 Volume (ac-ft)	2013 Volume (ac-ft)	2014/2015 Volume (ac-ft)
A	10	10	10	10	10	10
B	13	13	13	13	13	13
C	13.7	13.7	13.7	13.7	13.7	13.7
D	0	0	0	0	0	0
E	0	0	0	0	0	0
F	0	0	0	0	0	0
G	0	0	0	0	0	0
H	0	0	0	0	0	0
I	24.3	24.3	0	0	0	0
K	0	0	0	0	0	0
L	9.5	9.5	4.5	4.5	0	0
M	0	0	0	0	0	0
O	0	0	0	0	0	0
P	0	0	0	0	0	0
Q	0	0	0	0	0	0
R	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	70.5	70.5	41.2	41.2	36.7	36.7

REVEGETATION

Seeding and Shrub Planting. No additional seeding or shrub planting occurred in 2023.

Monitoring/Sampling. Cedar Creek Associates, Inc. conducted revegetation monitoring of permanently revegetated areas during the summers of 2022 and 2023 for the remaining acreage that has not received phase III release. These sampling events will be compiled into a vegetation report that will be submitted for SL9 final bond release application in 2024.

Weed Control. A noxious weed survey was completed for the Yoast Mine area in 2023 to determine the need or level of retreatment necessary for areas sprayed in 2022 and to identify any new weed infestations. Canada thistle was the primary target species in all control areas, with lesser activity directed towards areas of hound's-tongue, whitetop, toadflax, kochia, mullien, and thistle. The applied herbicide consisted of a tank mix of Milestone, Activator 90, and 2,4-D, Vista, and Escort XP, dependent on the targeted weed(s). Control areas were sprayed in June and July. See the attached 2023 Weed Spray Logs for the locations and quantities sprayed.

Spot-spraying was used for targeted weed control, reducing potential impacts to adjacent desirable vegetation. The herbicide mix, based on recommendations from the Colorado State Extension Service. The weed control areas will continue to be monitored in 2023 for effectiveness and any necessary retreatment.

Grazing

Approximately 800 Sheep (ewes) were moved on to the Yoast reclaim area for 20 days between mid-September and early-October, following completion of the site revegetation success monitoring. This grazing schedule resulted in a total of 107 AUMs for 2023. The areas grazed in 2016 through 2023 are essentially the same as grazing in previous years and are located on the north end of the Yoast Mine.

Assumptions:

- Five (5) sheep = 1.0 AUM
- One (1) AUM requires 810 lbs. of forage
- $20 \text{ days} \times 850/5 \text{ animal units} = 3,400 \text{ animal days} \div 30 \text{ days} = 114 \text{ AUM}$
- $1,100 \text{ lbs/acre} \times 798 \text{ acres} = 877,800 \text{ lbs of forage available}$
- $810 \text{ lbs} \times 114 \text{ AUMs} = 92,340 \text{ lbs of forage required}$
- Therefore; $92,340 \div 877,800 \times 100 = 10.5\%$ utilization of the Yoast reclaimed areas

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF REVEGETATION AND BOND RELEASE

As of 2023, all disturbed areas except for those acres identified as long-term facilities have been backfilled and graded, soil has been replaced, and these areas have been seeded. For the reclaimed areas, 687.8 acres have been approved for Phase I through III bond release, 827.5 acres have been approved for Phase I and II bond release, and 830.70 acres have been approved for Phase I bond release. No bond release applications were submitted in 2023. SP plans to submit SL9 final bond release application in 2024.

SEDIMENTATION POND SURVEYS

SP is required to monitor sedimentation ponds for sediment storage capacities. Up through 2015, this monitoring was conducted by physically surveying each pond each year. This schedule provided a sediment yield history and gave advanced warning to operations personnel when sediment clean-out work was needed. Also, SP visually inspects each pond, at a minimum, quarterly each year. During these inspections, any significant observed change in sediment storage, or noticeable expansion of the sediment delta at the inlet to the pond, are noted as conditions requiring pond maintenance.

Yearly sediment delivery to the ponds is considerably less than originally calculated, since significant portions of these watersheds have now been revegetated. Given this consideration, a request was submitted and approved to monitor sediment accumulations on a five-year schedule for ponds that flow year-round and to visually inspect any other ponds. The results of the 2015 survey indicate that all ponds have sufficient sediment storage as shown by Table 3, Sediment Pond Capacities. SP has been visually inspecting the sediment levels of the Ponds noting nothing concerning and plans to complete an actual survey in 2024 with an outside contractor.

TABLE 2 SENECA SEDIMENT PONDS - WATER CAPACITY TRENDS

Pond ID	Required Capacity ¹ (ac-ft)	Current Remaining Water Capacity ² (ac-ft)								Decision Reference
YEAR		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
Y – 010*	3.08	7.6	7.6	7.8	8	8	7.7	9.2	9.2	TR-37
Y - 011	0.99	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.6	TR-37
Y - 011A	0.63 ³	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	TR-37
Y – 012*	0.767	0.7	0.7	1.1	0.83	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	TR-37
Y-012A		6.3	6.3	6.1	5.6	5	4.6	4.4	4.4	
Y - 013	1.325	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.5	4.5	4.5	TR-37
Y - 014	1.6	10.5	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.5	7.5	7	7	TR-37

(*) Required every 5 yrs – next survey 2022

(1) Based on SEDCAD results for a 10yr/ 24hr storm event.

(2) Remaining capacity below principal spillway or orifice.

(3) TR 37, page 13-4A.1-A.9 (stock pond)

STOCK TANKS & SURGE CONTROL STRUCTURES

There is currently one stock tank in the Yoast area, which is a permanent feature. No new stock tanks or surge control structures were constructed in 2023.

WILDLIFE MONITORING

Wildlife monitoring was conducted in cooperation with Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) during 2022. The work included:

Monitoring one known Columbian sharp-tailed grouse lek and checking for any new ones – Results from this work have not been received from CPW at the time of this report.