



SENECA IIW MINE
Permit C-1982-057

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

Submitted: February 2024

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LIST OF MAPS

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

2014 Chronological Seeding (no change since 2014, updated Map Submitted with 2019 ARR review)

2014 Planned Reclamation (no change since 2014)

ATTACHMENTS

2023 Weed Control Logs

SENECA IIW MINE 2023 ANNUAL RECLAMATION REPORT

2023 DISTURBANCE AREA

The total Seneca IIW disturbance acreage reported in 2013 was 1,290.2 acres. A Bond Release Tracking Initiative initiated by SCC in 2014 consolidated all previous mapping information in a GIS (Geographic Information System) format, resulting in a corrected disturbance area of 1,291.5 acres. The referenced 2014 Planned Reclamation map portrays the physical disturbance boundaries and areas. No additional areas were disturbed during 2023.

BACKFILLING AND GRADING

No additional areas were backfilled and graded in 2023. The DRMS report form acreage was updated for 2022 to reflect areas that had been counted as B&G in the past but should have been counted as Permanent Facilities such as road ways, impoundments, and stock ponds.

SOIL AND SPOIL MONITORING

Seneca Property, LLC (SP) is required to monitor soil and spoil handling operations, including salvage, storage, and redistribution of for the Seneca IIW 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 materials were recovered during 2023.
- **Soil Replacement Thickness** - No soil or spoil materials were replaced during 2023.
- **Soil Pit – Soil Fertility/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** - SP submitted a soil material balance with Permit Revision PR-04 (dated 9/04). The soil balance has not been revised because Seneca IIW is reclaimed except for permanent roads and facilities areas.

Soil Salvage and Storage. No additional soil was salvaged during 2023. The life-of-mine disturbance from which soil was salvaged (1,291.5 acres) and the soil stockpile locations as of December 31, 2015 (no change subsequent to 2012) are shown the 2012 Soil Replacement Map, and 2014 Planned Reclamation Map

The remaining stockpile volumes as of December 31, 2015 are listed below in Table 13.1, Soil Stockpile Volumes. As of the end of 2023, 7.0 acre-feet (11,300 cy) of soil remain stockpiled in the mining area.

Soil Replacement. No soil was replaced during 2023, therefore the total remaining mine disturbance area requiring soil replacement (as of December 31, 2021) is 10.0 acres. The remaining acreage requiring soil replacement corresponds to sedimentation pond areas, which remain to provide sediment control for the reclaimed areas. In most cases, it is anticipated that these ponds will be retained as permanent structures (stock ponds) to support the postmining land uses, subject to application and approval of a request for permanent retention. This acreage has been accounted for as the “Non-Permanent Facilities” until approved as permanent.

Soil Replacement Thickness. The overall soil replacement thickness for the IIW disturbed areas was originally projected to be 1.3 feet. The soil balance for the remaining disturbed areas was calculated as follows:

Mine Area Summary

Total Disturbance Area	= 1,291.5 acres
Permanent Facilities & Soil Replaced	= 1,281.5 acres
Remaining Disturbed Areas Requiring Soil	= 10.0 acres
Soil in stockpiles (Table 13.1)	= 7.0 ac-ft
Mean Replacement Depth	= 0.7 feet (8.4 inches)

TABLE 13.1 - SOIL STOCKPILE VOLUMES (as of 12/31/13 – No change subsequently)

Stockpile Designation	2008 Volume (ac-ft)	2009 Volume (ac-ft)	2010 Volume (ac-ft)	2011 Volume (ac-ft)	2013 Volume (ac-ft)
I	41.6	41.6	41.6	0.0	0.0
J	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
L	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
P2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
AA	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
BB	26.9	26.9	26.9	13.5	0.0
CC	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
GG	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
HH	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
JJ	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
KK	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4
PP	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
QQ	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
RR	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
SS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TT	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
UU	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
VV	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
WW	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
XX	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6
YY	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
ZZ	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
AAA	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CCC	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
DDD	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
II-W MINE TOTAL	75.5	75.5	75.5	20.5	7.0

Spoil Monitoring. During a CDRMS inspection following snowmelt, surface cracking and a visible slump were noted on the slope between Pond 006 and the haulroad to the south. SP coordinated with Northwest Colorado Consultants (NWCC) to complete field observations, selective drilling, and a stability evaluation, along with remediation recommendations. The field activities were completed during July and August, 2016, and the NWCC Report was received in mid-October, 2016. SP has monitored site conditions following snowmelt since spring 2017. Following the spring snow melt of 2022, a small additional area adjacent to the original slide experienced some minor slope failure. SP has been monitoring the slide area and looking for non-invasive solutions. Unless site conditions change significantly, indicating the need for more immediate action, SP anticipates that remedial measures will be implemented in conjunction with final site reclamation activities within the next few years.

REVEGETATION

- **Seeding and Shrub Planting**

Seeding. No additional areas were seeded in 2023.

Shrub Planting. No additional tree or shrub planting occurred during 2023.

- **Monitoring** – Cedar Creek Associates, Inc. conducted successful Year 2 – Final Phase II/III vegetation success monitoring on approximately 81 acres of eligible reclamation during the summer and fall of 2023. The combined 2022/2023 monitoring reports will be reviewed, and with successful data SP will submit a Phase II/III Bond Release on the acreage in 2024 for final release of the permit.
- **Weed Control** - A noxious weed survey was completed for the IIW Mine area in the spring of 2023 to determine the need or level of re-treatment 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 toward areas of hounds-tongue and whitetop. The applied herbicide consisted of a tank mix of Milestone, Activator 90, and Journey, Banvel, or Weedone LV6, 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 weed control areas will continue to be monitored in 2024 for effectiveness and any necessary retreatment.

- **Grazing** - Cattle (100 cow/calf pairs) were moved onto the Seneca IIW reclaim area in June and moved off by Early October. This grazing schedule resulted in a total of 200 AUMs for 2023. See attached 2013 Grazing Plan Map for pasture locations (areas grazed in 2023 are the same as those shown on the 2013 map).

Assumptions:

- One (1) cow/calf pair = 1.2 AUM, One (1) AUM requires 810 lbs. of forage
- 50 days (x) 100 cow/calf pairs x 1.2 = 6,000/30 days = 200 animal unit months (AUMs)
- 2,430 lbs/acre (x) 685.2 acres = 1,665,036 lbs of forage available
- 810 lbs (x) 200 AUMs = 162,000 lbs of forage required
- Therefore; 162,000 /1,665,036 (x) 100 =9.7% utilization of the Seneca IIW reclaim areas.

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF REVEGETATION & BOND RELEASE

As of 2023, all disturbed areas not deemed permanent have been seeded. Total areas seeded and revegetated prior to 2023 are shown on 2012 annual reclamation report Chronological Seeding Map. SP submitted SL-5 requesting Phase II bond release on eligible areas, which was approved on approximately 798 acres (as shown in Figure 2) on 08/27/14. SP completed revegetation success monitoring for Phase III bond release during 2015 – 2016 and 2018-2019. The results of these monitoring efforts were incorporated into SL6 and SL7 Bond Release submittal packages resulting in Phase III release of 1,183.6 acres.

SEDIMENTATION POND SURVEYS

SP monitors 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.

Because the mined areas have been reclaimed and revegetated for several years, the available storage capacities typically do not change significantly from year to year, so a request was submitted and approved to monitor sediment accumulations on a 5-year schedule for ponds that flow year-round and to visually inspect any other ponds. The results of the 2014 annual survey indicated that all ponds are above the minimum requirement for storage as summarized by Table 13.3, Sediment Pond Capacities. The pond sediment levels have stabilized and are visually inspected, noting no concerns. SP plans to conduct a final pond survey in 2024 with an outside contractor before final release in 2024.

TABLE 13.2 SENECA IIW SEDIMENT PONDS - WATER CAPACITY TRENDS								
Pond ID	Required Capacity¹ (ac-ft)	Current Remaining Water Capacity² (ac-ft)						
YEAR		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
II-W - 005	1.8	5	4.9	4.9	4.3	4.3	5.4	5.3
II-W – 006*	4.44	4.8	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.9
II-W - 009	4.35	7.2	7.3	7.3	6.6	6.6	7	6.8
II-W – 015*	2.41	2.8	2.9	3	2.8	2.9	2.7	2.6
II-W – 016*	2.804	3.3	3.7	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.3
II-W – 017*	1.68	5.6	5.6	5.4	4.8	4.7	5.5	5.1

**Next Survey 2022*

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

(2) Remaining capacity below principal spillway or orifice.

STOCK TANKS

There are currently 11 stock-tanks or stock-ponds in the Seneca IIW area, and all are permanent. Inspections reports for all stock-ponds have been previously submitted. No new stock-ponds//tanks were constructed in 2023. All of the stock tanks have been approved for final phase III release and no longer require inspections.

WILDLIFE MONITORING

The most recent wildlife monitoring was conducted in cooperation with Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) during 2023. The 2023 work included:

Monitoring three known Columbian sharp-tailed grouse leks and checking for new ones – Data from this work has yet to be received from CPW as of this report.

PERMITTING AND COMPLIANCE

No permitting actions took place during 2023.