



STATE OF  
COLORADO

Ridley - DNR, Hunter <hunter.ridley@state.co.us>

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## Inspection Report, Foidel Creek Mine, C-1982-056

1 message

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**Ridley - DNR, Hunter** <hunter.ridley@state.co.us>

Fri, Feb 16, 2024 at 8:13 AM

To: "Kawcak, Miranda" <mkawcak@peabodyenergy.com>

Miranda,

Please find attached the Division's report for the partial inspection of the Foidel Creek Mine on February 6, 2024. Let me know if you have any questions.

Kind regards,  
Hunter Ridley (she/her/hers)  
Environmental Protection Specialist I



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

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**Foidel\_Feb\_CP.pdf**

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**PERMIT INFORMATION**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Permit Number:</b> C-1982-056<br><b>Mine Name:</b> Foidel Creek Mine<br><b>Operator:</b> Twentymile Coal, LLC<br><b>Operator Address:</b><br>Ms Miranda Kawcak<br>29515 Routt County Road No. 27<br>Oak Creek, CO 80467 | <b>County:</b> Routt<br><b>Operation Type:</b> Underground<br><b>Permit Status:</b> Active<br><b>Ownership:</b> Private |
|  | <b>Operator Representative Present:</b><br><br>Miranda Kawcak   |
| <b>Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)</b><br><br>  |   |

**INSPECTION INFORMATION**

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|--|---|--|---|
| <b>Inspection Start Date:</b> February 6, 2024<br><b>Inspection Start Time:</b> 10:15<br><b>Inspection End Date:</b> February 6, 2024<br><b>Inspection End Time:</b> 12:15 |   | <b>Inspection Type:</b> Coal Partial Inspection<br><b>Inspection Reason:</b> Normal I&E Program<br><b>Weather:</b> Clear |   |
| <b>Joint Inspection Agency:</b><br><br>None  |   | <b>Joint Inspection Contacts:</b><br><br>  |   |
| <b>Post Inspection Agency:</b><br><br>None   |   | <b>Post Inspection Contacts:</b><br><br>   |   |
| <b>Inspector(s):</b><br><br>Hunter Ridley  | <b>Inspector's Signature:</b><br><br><i>Hunter Ridley</i> |  | <b>Signature Date:</b><br><br>February 16, 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 &amp; Grading

R - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

N - Explosives

Y - Fish &amp; Wildlife

R - Hydrologic Balance

Y - 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

R - Signs and Markers

N - Support Facilities Not On-site

N - Special Categories Of Mining

R - Topsoil

**COMMENTS**

This was a partial inspection of the Foidel Creek Mine; DRMS Permit No. C-1982-056, operated by Twentymile Coal, LLC. (TC). The inspection was conducted by Hunter Ridley with the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety (Division). Miranda Kawcak of TC accompanied the inspection. **Please address the Bold items below.**

In an effort to ensure that all reclamation tasks are appropriately bonded for, the Division is currently in the process of collecting field data in an effort to ground truth and update on-site conditions at the Foidel Creek Mine. Data collection will continue to be collected over a number of inspections. Final data collection and recalculation of the financial warranty will be completed by July of 2024.

**SIGNS AND MARKERS—Rule 4.02**

Mine identification markers were observed throughout the site (Photo 1). All information for compliance was present on mine signs. Signs were also noted along CR27 where the mine's permit boundary crosses the public road.

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):

Haul roads throughout the site were plowed and navigable. Some grading work will need to be done to roads to remove minor ruts created by plowing activity.

**SUPPORT FACILITIES – Rule 4.04:**

The Operator mentioned that the storage building, called the 'Electrical Storage Building' on Surface Facilities Map 24 and listed as the 'PM Bay' in Foidel's Reclamation Cost Estimate, is set to be torn down and replaced with a new storage facility (Photo 12). The new facility may be rebuilt on the existing pad, which is preferable, or it may be rebuilt elsewhere, but close to the original location. Depending on the design and size of the new storage building, this may have bonding implications for TC. TC is aware that any change to the support facilities will require submission of a Minor Revision to approve the new building placement and reevaluate the bond.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 6

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2

**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:

**Main Facilities Area**

Most ponds across the site were frozen over and snow covered. However, Ponds E, D and B were noted to still be discharging slightly (Photos 7, 10, and 11) No erosional or structural issues were noted at any of the ponds.

The Operator informed the Division that a large, old conveyor tube located on the eastern side of the wash plant facility had recently been damaged (Photo 2). The conveyor tube became overwhelmed with the weight of recent snow and ice and detached from the main wash plant building. No injuries occurred. As a result, no new coal was being washed and processed at the time of inspection. TC has plans to salvage surplus conveyor equipment from the nearby Peabody Sage Creek Mine to build a temporary replacement conveyor while a new conveyor tube is being fabricated. Coal was being reworked and piled by a dozer in the Coal Stockpile Loadout while wash plant activities are on hold (Photo 5).

The train loadout area was inspected and found to be in good condition. Foidel Creek looked to be vegetated under the snow and buffer zones signs and barrel markers were still in place (Photos 6, 8, and 9).

**Tipple Area**

The northeastern corner of the permit was inspected, which includes the Tipple Pond (Photo 13), 9E Exhaust Blower Pad, and reclaimed 18 Right Borehole. Several topsoil piles are in place along the road through this area and look to be stable and vegetated under the snow. The roads had been plowed recently of heavier snowfall events. Culverts and the area's drainage ditch were unable to be inspected under the snow.

**TOPSOIL – Rule 4.06**

Topsoil piles contained appropriate markers. Special care should be taken in the winter months to ensure that topsoil piles are protected from snow plowing activities. This continues to be a maintenance item.

**EXCESS SPOIL AND DEV. WASTE – Rule 4.09 Placement; Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization:**

The refuse pile was not active at the time of inspection. No haul trucks were piling material as coal could not be washed and separated from spoil due to the wash plant damage. Piling and compaction of refuse material will continue once a temporary conveyor has been installed at the wash plant. Lifts three and four are currently under construction (Photos 3 and 4).

Compaction reports are conducted quarterly. As per the last inspection request (dated November 14, 2023), the Division has received a majority of the missing compaction reports need to complete the public record. The following reports still need to be submitted: 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2021 and 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2023. **Please submit all missing compaction reports through e-permitting to the Division and continue to submit these reports on a timely basis.**

**GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE:**

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**Ongoing Maintenance Items:**

- Protect topsoil piles throughout the site during maintenance and snow plowing activities in the winter months
- Ensure BMPs near the Stoker Coal Loadout area are maintained and replaced as needed throughout the winter season.

**ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE**

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

**PHOTOGRAPHS**

*Figure 1: Mine sign located at the access road entrance*

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*Figure 2: A conveyor tube connected to the east side of the Wash Plant was recently damaged, a temporary conveyor will be built in its place until a new tube can be fabricated.*



*Figure 3: View south, the refuse pile was not active at the time of inspection.*





*Figure 4: View southwest, the refuse pile was not active at the time of inspection.*



*Figure 5: Coal was being reworked and piled by a dozer in the Coal Stockpile Loadout while wash plant activities are on hold.*

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*Figure 6: View east of the train loadout facility.*



*Figure 7: View south of Ponds B, snow covered but discharging.*

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*Figure 8: View northwest of the buffer zone signs in place near the train loadout facility.*



*Figure 9: View southwest of Foidel Creek and appropriate buffer zone signage.*

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*Figure 10: Though snow-covered, Pond E was discharging at the time of inspection.*



*Figure 11: Pond G was frozen over, snow-covered, and not discharging.*

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*Figure 12: View south of belt yard and surplus storage area. TC has plans to tear down and replace the electrical storage building seen to the west.*



*Figure 13: View southeast of the Tipple Pond in the NE corner of the permit.*

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