



STATE OF
COLORADO

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C1980007, West Elk Mine, February Inspection Report (Aerial)

Simmons - DNR, Leigh <leigh.simmons@state.co.us>

Fri, Feb 16, 2024 at 12:00 PM

To: "Aire, Michael E." <maire@archrsc.com>

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Attached

Leigh Simmons
Environmental Protection Specialist



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

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PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1980-007 Mine Name: West Elk Mine Operator: Mountain Coal Company, LLC Operator Address: Michael Aire 5174 Highway 133 Somerset, CO 81434	County: Delta, Gunnison Operation Type: Underground Permit Status: Active Ownership: Private
	Operator Representative Present: None
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: February 13, 2024 Inspection Start Time: 12:00 Inspection End Date: Inspection End Time:		Inspection Type: Aerial Inspection Inspection Reason: Normal I&E Program Weather: Clear	
Joint Inspection Agency: None		Joint Inspection Contacts:	
Post Inspection Agency: None		Post Inspection Contacts:	
Inspector(s): Leigh Simmons Brock Bowles	Inspector's Signature: 		Signature Date: 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 - Roads

N - Availability of Records

N - Reclamation Success

N - Backfill & Grading

N - Revegetation

N - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

N - Subsidence

N - Explosives

R - Slides and Other Damage

N - Fish & Wildlife

R - Support Facilities On-site

N - Hydrologic Balance

N - Signs and Markers

R - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Support Facilities Not On-site

N - Other

N - Special Categories Of Mining

R - Processing Waste

N - Topsoil

COMMENTS

This was an aerial inspection. Brock Bowles flew and photographed the site. The photographs were inspected by Leigh Simmons.

GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE:

The volume of the Run-of-Mine coal stockpile appeared to have been drawn down from recent months. The fines pile at the western end of the stockpile pad also appeared to have been drawn down slightly.

PROCESSING WASTE/COAL MINE WASTE PILES – Rule 4.10 and 4.11**Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization; Placement:**

No processing waste had been produced or transported since the last inspection. Loosely piled material on the top of the RPEE will need to dry before it can be compacted. Figure 14 shows what appears to be a small surface instability in the compacted material just below the final hairpin on the RPEE, which will need to be addressed in the spring.

SLIDES and DAMAGE - Rule 4.12:

The slump on the MSB is very clear to see (Figures 1, 8 and 9), with the surface expressions showing up starkly on the snow covered surface.

SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

A drill rig was on-site at the Box Canyon North Well.

DOCUMENTS RECEIVED

N/A

OTHER (SPECIFY)

N/A

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 7

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

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

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 7

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2



Figure 1: Lower facilities overview.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 7

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2



Figure 2: Wash plant and Lower Refuse Pile (LRP). Drill rig on site at the Box Canyon North Well.

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Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2



Figure 3: Clean coal stockpile, coal silos, train loadout.

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Figure 4: C-1 conveyor, Breaker building, Run-of-Mine coal stockpile, FW-1 pond, Main Topsoil stockpile, water tanks.

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Figure 5: MB5-E ponds.

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Figure 6: Breaker building, Coal silos, MB3 pond (lower left).

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Figure 7: Clean coal stockpile, silos, MB3 pond.

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Figure 8: Preparation Plant, LRP, Refuse Truck Bin.

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Figure 9: Office and shop area. Materials Storage Bench (MSB), showing slump on out-slope.

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Figure 10: Mine portal and central facilities

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Figure 11: Refuse Pile Expansion (RPE), RPE haul road, and RPE ponds.

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Figure 12: RPEE haul road

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Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2



Figure 13: RPEE

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 7

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Figure 14: Top of RPEE