



STATE OF
COLORADO

Jesse - DNR, Todd <todd.jesse@state.co.us>

February Partial Inspection Report

1 message

Jesse - DNR, Todd <todd.jesse@state.co.us>

Fri, Mar 1, 2024 at 1:56 PM

To: Kurt Blunt <kblunt@deserado.com>, Clayton Wein - DNR <clayton.wein@state.co.us>

Kurt,

Attached is the report for the February partial inspection. I did not note any items. Hope you have a good weekend.

-Todd

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Environmental Protection Specialist
Minerals Program, Grand Junction Field Office



2024-02-27 INSP-REPORT_C1981018.pdf


1851K



PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1981-018 Mine Name: Deserado Mine Operator: Blue Mountain Energy, Inc Operator Address: Mr Kurtis Blunt 3607 County Road 65 Rangely, CO, 81648	County: Moffat, Rio Blanco Operation Type: Underground Permit Status: Active Ownership: Private
	Operator Representative Present: Kurtis Blunt
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) 	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: February 21, 2024 Inspection Start Time: 10:45 Inspection End Date: February 21, 2024 Inspection End Time: 13:00	Inspection Type: Coal Partial Inspection Inspection Reason: Normal I&E Program Weather: Cloudy
Joint Inspection Agency: None	Joint Inspection Contacts: NA
Post Inspection Agency: None	Post Inspection Contacts: NA
Inspector(s): Todd Jesse	Inspector's Signature:  Signature Date:

Inspection Topic Summary

NOTE: Y=Inspected N=Not Inspected R=Comments Noted V=Violation Issued NA=Not Applicable

N - Air Resource Protection

Y - Roads

N - Availability of Records

N - Reclamation Success

Y - Backfill & Grading

N - Revegetation

N - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

N - Subsidence

N - Explosives

N - Slides and Other Damage

Y - Fish & Wildlife

Y - Support Facilities On-site

Y - Hydrologic Balance

Y - Signs and Markers

Y - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Support Facilities Not On-site

N - Other

N - Special Categories Of Mining

Y - Processing Waste

Y - Topsoil

COMMENTS

This report documents the observations made by the Division during a partial inspection of the Deserado Mine on February 21, 2024. The inspection was completed by Todd Jesse of the Division. Kurt Blunt represented Blue Mountain Energy during the inspection. The weather was mostly cloudy with a temperature of 40 degrees F. The ground conditions were extremely muddy and minor amounts of snow cover remained on north facing aspects at the mine site. Due to the soft ground conditions, most of the mine site was inaccessible during the inspection.

BACKFILL and GRADING – Rule 4.14

Contemporaneous Reclamation 4.14.1; Approximate Original Contour 4.14.2; Highwall Elimination 4.14.1(2)(f); Steep Slopes 4.14.2, 4.27; Handling of Acid and Toxic Materials 4.14.3; Stabilization of Rills and Gullies 4.14.6;

Backfilling and grading of the Halandras Landfill (with the exception of the adjacent sump) has been completed. The grading has returned the area to the approximate original contour of the area (Photo 1). A fence was installed to prevent the general public from entering the area. Topsoil needs to be replaced and the area also needs to be seeded.

FISH and WILDLIFE – Rule 4.18:

Pronghorn tracks were seen in the mud along the pad to RDH-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;

Three ponds are located within the facilities are of the mine site; the DP-1 pond, the PP-1 pond and the PP-2 pond. The PP-1 and PP-2 Ponds were accessible at the time of the inspection, however the road to DP-1 was extremely muddy and only observed from the bench above the pond. DP-1 collects all runoff from the three main facilities benches. DP-1 was partially frozen and discharging through the primary outlet at the time of the inspection. There were no indications of instability or erosion observed (Photo 2). The PP-1 pond is located on the middle facilities bench by the prep plant. The pond was holding less water than previous inspection and was

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partially frozen at the time of the inspection. No signs of instability or erosion were noted (Photo 3). Pond PP-1 was not observed to be discharging. The PP-2 pond is located on the upper facilities bench. This pond was also partially frozen. There were no indications of instability or erosion on the pond's embankment (Photo 4).

The RS-1 Sump and the RR-1 Pond are located on the south side of the rail loadout. The RS-1 Sump was not impounding water at the time of the inspection. The sump's embankments were stable and there were no erosional features identified. No water was observed in the RR-1 Pond. The inlets to the pond were stable and the erosional cutting on the idle inlet had not enlarged since the Division's previous inspection (Photo 5). The embankments of the pond were stable with no signs of erosion.

The B-seam dewatering system was not accessible at the time of the inspection due to mud. The operator stated that the system was active at the time of the inspection and water was being discharged from the Last Chance Pond.

The SS-1 and SS-2 Ponds are located north of the Slot Storage Facility. The SS-1 Pond was holding some minor amounts of water that was mostly frozen. The pond was not discharging water. The pond's embankments were stable with no indications of erosion. The SS-2 Pond was not holding water at the time of the inspection. The embankment of the pond was stable with no signs of erosion (Photo 6).

The Raw Water Lagoon is in the southeastern portion of the permit boundary off CR-65 and adjacent to the White River. The pond was partially frozen at the time of the inspection. There was no evidence of erosion or instability along pond embankments.

PROCESSING WASTE/COAL MINE WASTE PILES – Rule 4.10 and 4.11

Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization; Placement:

Three refuse piles are active at the Deserado Mine. The RP-2/3/4, RD-5a and RP-A piles. Minor rills were observed on the slopes of RP-2/3/4 and RP-5a. The rills have not yet reached the size of gullies and do not appear to affect the stability of the refuse piles (Photo 7). The rills are typically graded and patched as part of the spring maintenance that occurs at the mine. No other erosional features or displacement were observed on RP-2/3/4 or RP-5a. No indication of displacement, slumping, or other instability was observed in the waste piles. Currently windrows of material are being stacked on the RP-2/3/4 pile.

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):

The Haul Road was clear of snow and well maintained. There were no sections with ruts or other road damage. The road surface was wet and no noticeable amount of dust was generated by haul trucks. The ditches that parallel the roads appear to be unobstructed/stable and able to convey water but will likely need to be mucked out in the spring.

CR-65 had no surface cracks or other indications of road damage due to subsidence. Most access roads were inaccessible due to soft ground conditions. Roads were stable and no erosional features were identified.

SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

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Support facilities that were inspected include the main facilities/portals area, B Seam Vent Shaft #1, RDH-2, RDH-4, portions of the conveyor corridor, and Slot Storage. The main facilities for the Deserado mine are composed of three benches. The lower bench contains the mine, office, shop, and portals. The middle bench contains the prep plant and the upper bench contains a materials laydown yard and electric substation. The drainage structures in the main facilities area were functioning correctly. There were no indications of erosional features on the three benches and berms were in good condition. The safety fence surrounding the electric substation was in good condition.

The B Seam Vent Shaft #1 is located north of the main facilities off of the haul road. The pad was stable with no erosional features. The fencing around the shaft to prevent unauthorized entry was in good condition (Photo 8).

The pad for RDH-2 rock dust tank is located to the east of the B Seam Vent Shaft #1. The pad is stable with no erosional features (Photo 9).

The Slot Storage is located in the northern part of the permit area just to the south of the rail loadout. There were no indications of erosion on the pad or on the slopes that contain the Slot Storage. The pad was well kept.

The pad for RDH-4 rock dust tank is located on the north side of the B Seam Dewatering System #1. The pad for the tank was stable with no indications of erosion.

During the inspection the Conveyor Corridor was traversed. The conveyor was running and well maintained. There were no indications of erosion underneath the conveyor.

SIGNS AND MARKERS – Rule 4.02:

The mine identification signs are posted on the entrance to the permit boundary on CR-65. The signs displayed the current contact information for the permittee. The signs also include the assigned DRMS permit number. The ID signs were placed in unobstructed location and the text was clearly legible (Photo 10).

TOPSOIL – Rule 4.06

Removal 4.06.2; Substitute Materials 4.06.4(4); Storage and Protection 4.06.3; Redistribution 4.06.4:

Topsoil stockpiles are located throughout the mine site. Topsoil stockpiles observed during this inspection include the B-Vent Raise (Photo 11), rail loop, RDH-2 and RDH-4 stockpiles. The stockpiles were protected by vegetation and showed no indications of erosion or instability. Each topsoil pile that was observed had topsoil markers at the top of the pile. The markers are T-posts covered with pieces of white PVC. The markers were placed in visible locations and easy to spot.

DOCUMENTS RECEIVED: NA

OTHER (SPECIFY): NA

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PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1 – Grading of the Halandras Landfill with fence to prevent unauthorized entry.



Photo 2 – View from middle bench of Pond DP-1. No signs of instability.

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Photo 3 – Pond PP-1 near the prep plant. No signs of erosion or instability. Water level lower than previous inspection.



Photo 4 – Pond PP-2 on the top bench of the facility area. No signs of erosion or instability.

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Photo 5 – Erosion scar in pond RR-1. There appears to be no change from previous inspections.



Photo 6 – Pond SS-2 near the slot storage. Embankments are vegetated and stable. No water present.

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Photo 7 – Waste Pile RP-2/3/4 with minor rills on the slope face. Windrows can be seen on top of the pile.



Photo 8 – B Seam Vent #1. Fence prohibits unauthorized entry and pad shows no signs of instability.

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Photo 9 – RDH-2 pad and rock dust tank. Pad shows no signs of instability.



Photo 10 – Mine Identification Sign placed at the permit boundary along CR-65.

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Photo 11 – Topsoil pile along the road to the B-Vent Raise. Marker can be seen on top of the pile.

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