

STATE OF
COLORADO

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

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

1 message

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

Tue, Apr 16, 2024 at 12:16 PM

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

Miranda,

Please find attached the Division's report for the partial inspection of Foidel Creek Mine on April 10, 2024. A few new maintenance items have been added in this report (and are highlighted within the report for ease of reference) and are related to replacing BMPs at the stoker building and removing a snow/ice/debris pile from the ditch behind the warehouse. Have a quick look through and 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

P 720.868.7757 | F 303.832.8106

Physical: 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203

Mailing: DRMS Room 215, 1001 E 62nd Ave, Denver, CO 80216

hunter.ridley@state.co.us | <https://drms.colorado.gov>**April_CP_Foidel.pdf**
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PERMIT INFORMATION

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

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: April 10, 2024 Inspection Start Time: 08:45 Inspection End Date: April 10, 2024 Inspection End Time: 10:30		Inspection Type: Coal Partial Inspection Inspection Reason: Normal I&E Program Weather: Cloudy	
Joint Inspection Agency: None		Joint Inspection Contacts:	
Post Inspection Agency: None		Post Inspection Contacts:	
Inspector(s): Hunter Ridley	Inspector's Signature: <i>Hunter Ridley</i>		Signature Date: April 16, 2024

Inspection Topic SummaryNOTE: **Y**=Inspected**N**=Not Inspected **R**=Comments Noted**V**=Violation Issued**NA**=Not Applicable**N** - Air Resource Protection**R** - Roads**N** - Availability of Records**N** - Reclamation Success**N** - Backfill & Grading**N** - Revegetation**R** - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste**N** - Subsidence**N** - Explosives**N** - Slides and Other Damage**Y** - Fish & Wildlife**R** - Support Facilities On-site**R** - Hydrologic Balance**R** - Signs and Markers**R** - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan**N** - Support Facilities Not On-site**N** - Other**N** - Special Categories Of Mining**N** - Processing Waste**Y** - 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 was present at the mine office and Kevin Copeland and Mike Howard 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, if necessary, will be completed by July of 2024.

SIGNS AND MARKERS—Rule 4.02

Mine identification markers were observed throughout the site (Photo 3). 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 muddy from the recent snowmelt, but navigable. Grading work continues throughout the spring season to remove minor ruts created by trucks and equipment.

SUPPORT FACILITIES – Rule 4.04:

Support facilities such as the PM Bay, warehouse, belt storage area, and surplus storage area were inspected. A ditch behind the warehouse, just east of the weld shop, was found to be blocked by a large pile of ice, snow, and debris left over from winter plowing (Photo 6). Foidel Creek is located directly north of this ditch, and any water flowing out of or around this ditch could potentially be contributing

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sediment or pollutants to the creek. This pile of ice and debris will need to be removed to maintain full function of the ditch. **This has been added as a maintenance item. Please ensure this task is completed by the next month's inspection.**

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

Ponds were checked for discharge and culverts were inspected for function where conditions allowed. No culverts appeared to be fully blocked, but TC should continue to clean out culverts when vegetation and sediment hinders function. Notable observations include the discharge from ponds which are usually dry, i.e. Ponds G (Photo 4) and C (Photos 2 and 12). The recent melt of heavy snow at the site prompted these discharge events. Pond F was also discharging (Photo 5).

Most ponds around the main facilities area were noted to be in need of sediment cleanout, especially Ponds E (Photo 9) and B (Photo 13). A french drain was recently in need of repair in the BOB (Belt out back) coal storage area. Excess water in this area caused an increase in sediment flow at this end of the main facilities, which contributed to the need for clean out at the ponds. This cleanout effort should be conducted as soon as weather allows and has been added as a maintenance item. No erosional or structural issues were noted at any of the ponds.

Stoker Coal Loadout Area & Wash plant

Several months ago, the Division was informed that a large, old conveyor tube located on the eastern side of the wash plant facility had been damaged. However, a temporary replacement conveyor has been put in place at the facility while a new conveyor tube is being fabricated (Photo 7). Coal continues to be processed. The Operator stated that a fully replaced conveyor would likely not be on site until fall of 2024.

The stoker coal loadout building is routinely inspected to ensure that BMPs are in place and to ensure that the recent sealing of the wash building continues to keep water from draining down the northwestern hillside. Since an SAE (small area exemption) has been granted for this area, it is imperative that proper BMPs are in place to prevent sediment from reaching nearby Foidel Creek, especially as the spring season creates rapid and heavy runoff conditions at the site. As of the date of this inspection, the silt fences on either side of the loadout building were not properly in place (Photo 10). Additionally, hay bales placed behind the building to act as BMPs are nearly at capacity for sediment retention and are therefore in need of replacement (Photo 11). While these BMPs were originally required to deal with excess sediment traveling from the hillside due to a leak at the stoker building, runoff from heavy snowmelt has also caused small rills in the hillside and thus requires BMPs to be consistently in place to protect Foidel Creek. **The upkeep of BMPs in this area continue to be a maintenance item, however the Division will have to pursue more formal corrective actions if proper conditions in this area are not consistently maintained.**

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Tipple Area & Fish Creek Borehole

The Tipple Area and Fish Creek borehole is generally unused. The 9 East Exhaust Blower Pad and reclaimed 18 Right boreholes were unable to be inspected in this area due to snow and mud on access roads. The Fish Creek ponds are functioning properly (Photo 14).

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 active at the time of inspection. Since the installation of a temporary conveyor system at the wash plant (Photo 7), haul trucks have been able to recommence hauling, piling, reworking, and compacting of refuse material. Lifts three and four of the pile are currently under construction (Photo 8) with plans to topsoil and see at least one bench this year. No standing water was present on top of the refuse pile. Compaction reports for the refuse pile, also called subsidence reports, are conducted quarterly, and received annually on 3/1 of each year.

Ongoing Maintenance Items:

- Remove the large pile of ice, snow, and debris from the ditch locate behind the warehouse by next month's inspection.
- Ensure BMPs near the Stoker Coal Loadout area are consistently maintained and replaced as needed throughout the spring season.
- Remove excess sediment from ponds around the main facilities area as soon as weather allows.
- Protect topsoil piles throughout the site during maintenance and snow plowing activities in the winter months

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

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

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PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: View southeast from CR 27 of the southern portion of the main facilities, the ROM coal storage area and refuse pile are both visible.



Photo 2: View southeast from CR 27 of the middle of the main facilities area, the train loadout, Pond C, and the coal stockpile location is visible.

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Photo 3: Mine sign at the site entrance off CR 37.



Photo 4: View north of Pond G, discharging at the time of inspection.

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Photo 5: View east of Pond F, discharging at the time of inspection.



Photo 6: Remnants of snow, ice, and debris have been pushed into the ditch located behind the warehouse, removal of this blockage has been added as a maintenance item.

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Photo 7: A temporary conveyor has been added to the wash plant facility.



Photo 8: View atop the coal refuse pile.

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Photo 9: View north of Pond B, in need of clean out.



Photo 10: View west towards Foidel Creek taken from behind the stoker loadout building, silt fence is in need of repair.

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Photo 11: Hay bales behind the loadout building need to be replaced.



Photo 12: View east of Pond C, discharging at the time of inspection.

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Photo 13: View south of Ponds B, in need of cleanout.



Photo 14: View west of the Fish Creek Tipple Ponds.

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