



STATE OF  
COLORADO

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

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## April Partial Inspection

1 message

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

Thu, Apr 18, 2024 at 3:12 PM

To: Kurt Blunt <kblunt@deserado.com>

Cc: Clayton Wein - DNR <clayton.wein@state.co.us>

Kurt,

Attached is the report for the April partial inspection. As we discussed during the inspection there are still the two items we noted in March that crews haven't gotten to yet. Cleaning out the ditch at the rail load-out and repairing rills on the embankment of the RP-4 Pond. Please let me know if you have any questions. Hope you have a good weekend.

Thanks,  
Todd

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Environmental Protection Specialist  
Minerals Program, Grand Junction Field Office



**2024-04-18 INSP-REPORT\_C1981018.pdf**


3456K



**PERMIT INFORMATION**

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

**INSPECTION INFORMATION**

<b>Inspection Start Date:</b> April 9, 2024 <b>Inspection Start Time:</b> 10:50 <b>Inspection End Date:</b> April 9, 2024 <b>Inspection End Time:</b> 14:00		<b>Inspection Type:</b> Coal Partial Inspection <b>Inspection Reason:</b> Normal I&E Program <b>Weather:</b> Clear	
<b>Joint Inspection Agency:</b>  None		<b>Joint Inspection Contacts:</b>  NA	
<b>Post Inspection Agency:</b>  None		<b>Post Inspection Contacts:</b>  NA	
<b>Inspector(s):</b>  Todd Jesse	<b>Inspector's Signature:</b>  		<b>Signature Date:</b>  4/18/2024

**Inspection Topic Summary**

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

N - Air Resource Protection

R - Roads

N - Availability of Records

R - Reclamation Success

N - Backfill &amp; Grading

N - Revegetation

N - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

N - Subsidence

N - Explosives

N - Slides and Other Damage

R - Fish &amp; Wildlife

R - Support Facilities On-site

R - Hydrologic Balance

R - Signs and Markers

Y - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Support Facilities Not On-site

N - Other

N - Special Categories Of Mining

R - Processing Waste

R - Topsoil

**COMMENTS**

This report documents the Division's observations taken during a complete inspection of the Deserado Mine conducted April 9, 2023. This report was written by Todd Jesse of the Division. The operator, Blue Mountain Energy (BME) was represented by Kurt Blunt during the inspection. The weather was partly sunny and around 50° F at the start of the inspection. The ground conditions were mostly dry with mud persisting in some areas. The entirety of the mine site was accessible. Surface crews are beginning to complete spring maintenance items but have not yet reached the maintenance items that were noted on the previous inspection report.

**Maintenance Items Still to be Completed:**

1. Please clean brush from the Rail Loadout Storage South Ditch.
2. Please repair the rills on the embankments to Pond RP-4.

**Please complete brush removal from the Rail Loadout Storage South Ditch no later than May 9, 2024.**

**Please provide the Division with photos of the completed maintenance item by May 9, 2024. Please complete repairing the rills on the embankments of Pond RP-4 when regrading the refuse pile slopes above the pond in the spring.**

FISH and WILDLIFE – Rule 4.18:

Waterfowl were observed in Pond DP-1. Deer were observed near the pad of 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:

There are three ponds located in the main facilities area: the DP-1 Pond, the PP-1 Pond and the PP-2 Pond. The DP-1 Pond is located on the southern part of the lower facilities bench. DP-1 collects all runoff from the from the three facilities benches. The outlet structure was clear of debris and the pond was discharging at the time of inspection. The embankments appear stable with well-established vegetative cover. There were no

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erosional concerns identified. The ditches that convey water from the benches to the pond are in good condition with no maintenance items noted (Photo 1). The PP-1 Pond is located on the middle bench of the facilities area near the prep plant. The pond was below the discharge level. There were no erosion or stability issues identified in the PP-1 Pond. The PP-2 Pond is located on the upper facilities bench. The embankment was stable with no erosional features identified. The outlet structure was in good condition with no vegetation obscuring the outlet (Photo 2). Water diversion ditches throughout the main facilities area were unobstructed and stable.

The B Seam Dewatering System No. 2 is located to the east of the Slot Storage. The system was inactive during the inspection. The upper cell had no indications of water being present and the embankments were appeared stable. The main cell was holding a small amount of water below the level of discharge. The outlet appeared clear of debris. The embankments of the pond were stable with no indications of erosion. (Photo 3) The lower cell had no indication of water being present and the embankments appear stable.

The D-Seam Dewatering System is located toward the eastern permit boundary. The was active at the time of the inspection. Water is being placed in the lower cell of the system (Photo 4) and the upper cells are not in use. Minor amounts of meteoric water were present in the upper cells. The berms of the ponds showed no signs of displacement or erosion. The pad where the pump is located is in good condition with no signs of instability.

The SS-1 and SS-2 Pond is located just to the north of the Slot Storage Facility. The SS-1 pond is located to the north of the Slot Storage Facility. The pond was dry at the time of the inspection (Photo 5). The embankments of the pond were well vegetated and stable with no indications of erosion. The culvert located at the inlet to the pond was clear. The SS-2 Pond is located at the northwestern base of the Slot Storage. The pond was dry at the time of the inspection.

The RS-1 Sump and the RR-1 Pond are located at the south side of the Rail Loadout. The RS-1 Sump was. There were no indications of erosion. The RR-1 Pond was also dry. The embankments of the pond seem stable. The erosion feature on the northern embankment that has been noted in previous inspection reports does not appear to have grown in size. (Photo 6) **The Rail Loadout Storage South Ditch is congested with brush, please remove brush from the ditch. (Photo 7)**

Pond RP-1 is located at the base of the reclaimed RP-1 Refuse Pile. The pond was dry at the time of the inspection. The embankments of the pond were stable with no indications of erosion observed. There were no obstructions in the outlet - the trash rack over the pond's outlet was clean.

Two ponds are located at the northern base of Refuse Pile RP-2/3/4. The RP -2/3 Pond is located on the pile's northeast corner. The Pond consists of three cells. The east and west cells were holding water, but the main cell was dry. There were no erosional features identified. The channels above the ponds appear clear of debris. No erosional features were noted on the embankments of the conveyance ditches. The trash rack was clear of debris. The RP-4 Pond is located at the northwest base of the pile. The pond was holding minor amounts of water during the inspection. **The southern embankments directly below the stack are beginning to show signs of erosion. The rills that have formed on the embankments of the refuse pile are now cutting into the vegetated embankment. Please repair the rills that have formed on the pond embankment. (Photo 8)** The outlet for the RP-4 Pond is capped with a trash rack. The outlet was clear of debris.

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Pond RP-5 is located at the northern base of the RP-5a Refuse Pile. The pond dry at the time of the inspection. The embankments of the pond appear stable, and no indications of erosion were observed. The outlet was clear of obstructions.

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

Hydrocarbons are being stored in accordance with best practices. Fuel is stored in double walled tanks near the haul road leaving the facilities area. The double walled tanks are also within a berm. (Photo 9)

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

Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization; Placement:

During the inspection refuse material was being placed in windrows on the RP-2/3/4, RP-5a, and RP-A Refuse Pile. The piles were stable. Erosion on the slopes of the pile has been noted in previous Division inspection reports. The rills are beginning to enlarge and will to be filled in once crews are able.

#### 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 and well maintained. No sections of ruts or other road damage were observed. Surface crews are cleaning the ditches paralleling the haul road (Photo 10). The roads have not yet been treated for dust and a small amount of dust was noticeable behind haul trucks.

CR-65 had no surface cracks or other indications of road damage due to subsidence. Access roads throughout the mine site were traversed during the inspection. Roads were stable and no erosional features were identified.

#### RECLAMATION SUCCESS - Rule 4.15, Rule 3:

The RP-1 refuse pile has been reclaimed for several years. Vegetation is well established and protects the pile. No indications of instability of erosion were observed. The perimeter ditches appear stable with no erosion concerns.

#### SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

Support facilities that were inspected include the main facilities/portals area, B Seam Vent Shaft #1, RDH-4, the conveyor corridor, and Slot Storage and water tank/radio tower. 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 material laydown yard is well kept and organized. 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.

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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:

A mine identification sign was observed to be posted on the right-hand side of CR-65 on the county road enters the permit boundary. The sign was placed in an unobstructed location and text was easily legible. Information on the sign contained the site name, mine permit number, permittee name, MSHA ID, and contact information.

#### 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, rail loop, and RDH-3 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)**

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**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 to the southeast of Pond DP-1 with conveyance ditch in foreground.



Photo 2: View to the north of Pond PP-2

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Photo 3: View to the north of main cell of B Seam Dewatering System #2



Photo 4: View to the east of lower cell on the D Seam Dewatering System

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Photo 5: View to the north of Pond SS-1



Photo 6: View to the north of erosional scar on Pond RP-1. Does not appear to have enlarged.

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Photo 7: View to the west of congested Rail Loadout Storage South Ditch.



Photo 8: View to the southeast of rills on RP-2/3/4 pile that extend into Pond RP-4

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Photo 9: View to the east of fuel tanks in secondary containment.



Photo 10: View to the southeast of conveyance ditch along haul road. Crews have cleaned sediment from the ditch.

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