

STATE OF
COLORADO

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

New Horizon Mine, C-1981-008, SL-27 Inspection Report

1 message

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

Thu, Apr 18, 2024 at 3:29 PM

To: "Tennyson, Tony (Colowyo)" <ttennyson@tristategt.org>

Cc: "Monroy, Andrew E" <amonroy@osmre.gov>

Good afternoon Tony,

Attached is the Division's inspection report for the SL-27 Bond Release that was conducted on March 6, 2024. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Clayton Wein

Environmental Protection Specialist



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

P 303.866.3567 x 8185 | F 303.832.8106

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203

clayton.wein@state.co.us | <https://www.drms.colorado.gov>

**C-008, New Horizon Mine SL-27 Inspection Report_CCW.pdf**

1998K



PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1981-008 Mine Name: New Horizon Mine Operator: Elk Ridge Mining and Reclamation, LLC Operator Address: Mr. Tony Tennyson P.O. Box 628 27646 West 5th Avenue Nucla, CO 81424	County: Montrose Operation Type: Surface Permit Status: Active Ownership: Private
	Operator Representative Present: Tony Tennyson
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) 	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: March 6, 2024 Inspection Start Time: 12:50 Inspection End Date: March 6, 2024 Inspection End Time: 14:05		Inspection Type: Coal Partial Inspection Inspection Reason: Surety Release Requested Weather: Clear	
Joint Inspection Agency: OSM		Joint Inspection Contacts: Andrew Monroy	
Post Inspection Agency: OSM		Post Inspection Contacts: Andrew Monroy	
Inspector(s): Clayton Wein Todd Jesse		Inspector's Signature: <i>Clayton Wein</i> Signature Date: 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

N - Availability of Records

Y - Backfill & Grading

N - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

N - Explosives

R - Fish & Wildlife

Y - Hydrologic Balance

Y - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Other

N - Processing Waste

N - Roads

R - Reclamation Success

N - Revegetation

N - Subsidence

N - Slides and Other Damage

N - Support Facilities On-site

Y - Signs and Markers

N - Support Facilities Not On-site

N - Special Categories Of Mining

N - Topsoil

COMMENTS

This inspection report documents the Divisions observations and data collected during a bond release inspection (SL-27) of the New Horizon Mine, Permit No. C-1981-008. The inspection was conducted on March 6, 2024 by Clayton Wein and Todd Jesse of the Division. Elk Ridge Mining and Reclamation (ERMR) was represented during the inspection by Tony Tennyson. ERMR is the current landowner of the parcel requested for release. The Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) was present for the inspection and represented by Andrew Monroy. The weather was mostly clear with a temperature of 60° F. The ground conditions were dry.

The SL-27 Bond Release Application (SL-27) requested the Phase I release of 85.5 acres of land that was backfilled, graded, topsoiled and seeded in 2023. The reclamation parcel is split into an eastern portion and a western portion by the Johnson Access Road. The parcel is located to the northwest of the intersection of BB Road and 2700 Road.

The Division used the Field Maps application from ESRI to collect elevation data points and topsoil depth locations to help verify the reclamation was completed as approved in the C-1981-008 Permit Application Package. Results of the data are discussed below. Please see Table 1 on page 10 of this report for all data points collected during the inspection. Attached to the end of this report is the map titled New Horizon Mine Phase I Map. This map shows the locations of the data points from Table 1.

FISH and WILDLIFE – Rule 4.18:

Throughout the inspection several sets of tracks and scat from deer and elk were observed on the reclamation release area.

RECLAMATION SUCCESS - Rule 4.15, Rule 3:

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 6

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 3

Phase I Bond Release:**Topsoil Depth:**

Topsoil depth replacement at the New Horizon Mine is required to be 12.2 inches on dryland pastures and 24 inches on prime farmland (Section 2.05.4(2)(d)). Please refer to Map 2.05.4-4 of the Permit Application Package (PAP) to see the locations of topsoil replacement and topsoil stockpiles. For the post mining land use, please refer to Map 2.05.4-5 of the PAP for the locations of the post mining land use approved for the New Horizon Mine. Topsoil replacement of 4.0 acres of prime farmland and 81.5 acres of dryland pasture were the total acreages associated with SL-27.

In total 5 topsoil samples were taken during the bond release inspection. Three of which were located in the eastern portion of the reclamation parcel and two were located in the western portion of the reclamation parcel. In the eastern portion of the reclamation parcel sample points 134 and 141 were in the area designated as dryland pasture. Both topsoil samples yielded a depth of 17 inches. Sample point 136 was taken within the area designated prime farmland. Sample point 136 achieved a depth of 24 inches of topsoil. Sample locations 142 and 143 were in the western portion of the reclamation parcel. A depth of 12 inches of topsoil was sampled at point 142 and a depth of 15 inches was sampled at point 143. In general all topsoil samples meet the requirements of the approved depths. Sample point 142 was 12 inches and the permit outlines 12.2 inches. The 0.2 inch difference between the requirement and the sample is likely due to a slight compaction of the soil in that area or is well within a margin of error in the sample recording. Please see the Photographs section of this report to view the photos taken of the topsoil samples collected from the SL-27 Inspection (Photos 1 through 5).

Post Mining Topography:

The approved post mining topography for the New Horizon Mine can be viewed on Map 2.05.4-1 of the PAP. Submitted with the SL-27 application a map was provided showing two cross sections A-A' and B-B'. These transects were followed during the inspection to verify the accuracy of the information submitted in the bond release application. B-B' was traversed first. B-B' aligns north to south. B-B' is approved to gradually increase in elevation from B roughly to the middle of the transect and then decrease in elevation a little more significantly to B'. The land generally slopes to the west for the majority of the transect then shifts to slope north close to B'. While traversing B-B', the land gradually increased in elevation to the midpoint and then leveled off before decreasing in elevation to B'. The land sloped gently to the west until closer to B' and then the slope shifted to the north. The post mining topography on the ground closely matched that of what is approved on Map 2.05.4-1 in the PAP. The grade of the reclamation was consistent with no indications of differential settling. No erosional features were observed. The A-A' Transect traverses west at A east to A'. The land is approved to slope gradually down from A to the east and north just before the Johnson Access Road. Then the reclamation slopes gently and constantly up in elevation to A'. During the inspection the transect was traversed from A' to A. The reclamation sloped gently to the west down to the Johnson Access Road. The reclamation was stable with no erosional features observed. There were no indications of differential settling. The reclamation from the Johnson Access Road sloped gradually up in elevation westward to A. At the same time the reclamation also gently sloped to the north. The topography of A to A' in the field was observed to match closely match the post mining topography approved on Map 2.05.4-1 of the PAP.

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The Division inspected portions of the reclamation other than A-A' and B-B' for the visual accuracy of the topography. The northern and northeastern portions of the reclamation are approved to slope gently to the north. Visual inspections from the Division of these areas confirmed that the reclaimed topography did slope gently to the north. There were no concerns of instability or erosion found in these areas. No indications of differential settling were observed. The southwestern portion of the reclamation parcel is approved to slope to the north in the western portion and to the northeast in the eastern portion of this area. A small section of the southern portion of the southwestern reclamation slopes gently to the south/southwest. This section of the reclamation was observed to slope gently to the north in the western section and then the sloping turns to gently slope to the northeast in the eastern portion. A small section facing southwest of survey point 143 slopes gently to the southwest. The reclamation. This portion of the reclamation was stable and there were no erosional features observed. Additionally, there were no observed signs of differential settling. Please see the Photographs section of this report to view photos taken of the SL-27 reclamation topography (Photos 6 through 8).

DOCUMENTS RECEIVED: None

OTHER (SPECIFY): None

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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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Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 3

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo 1: The topsoil ample taken at point 134.



Photo 2: The topsoil sample taken at point 136.



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Photo 3: The topsoil sample taken at sample point 141.



Photo 4: The topsoil sample taken at sample point 142.



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Photo 5: The topsoil sample taken at sample point 143.



Photo 6: SL-27 Reclamation sloping down to the west and then back up in elevation. Photo 6 was taken looking to the west.



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Photo 7: SL-27 reclamation sloping up to the east. Prime farmland is located in the middle of Photo 7. The photo was taken east with the ground sloping down to the west.



Photo 8: SL-27 reclamation at the eastern section. Photo 8 was taken looking to the north.



Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 6

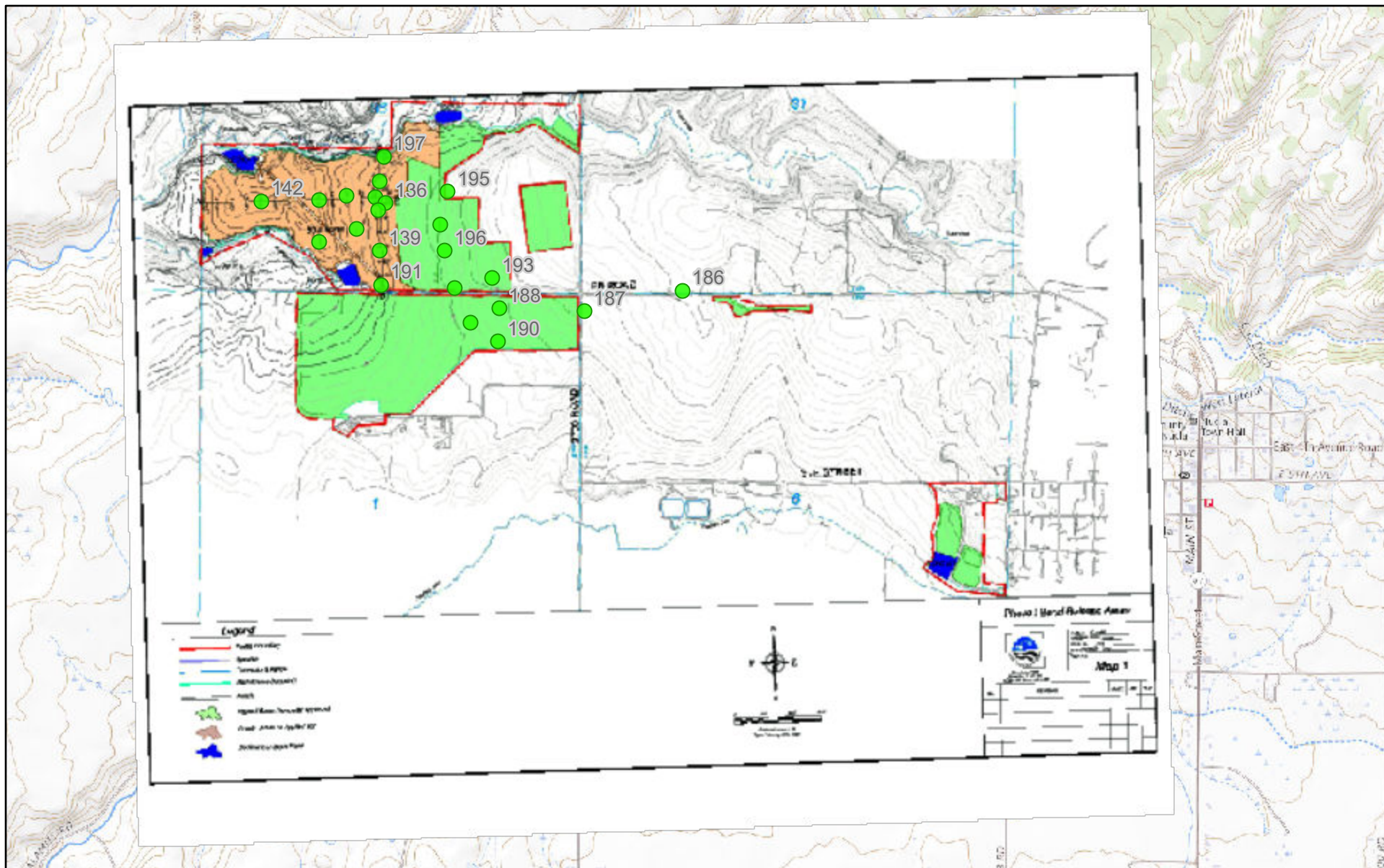
Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 3



C-1981-008 SL-27 Table 1

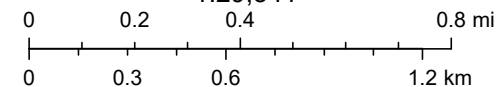
Data Point ID Number	Device Data Point Collected on	Elevation in Meters	Elevation in Feet	Topsoil Depth Measurement in Inches
134	IPhone	1,718.31	5,636.06	17
135	IPhone	1,723.03	5,651.54	NA
136	IPhone	NA	NA	24
137	IPhone	1,726.26	5,662.13	NA
138	IPhone	1,723.10	5,651.77	NA
139	IPhone	1,722.06	5,648.36	NA
140	IPhone	1,719.22	5,639.04	NA
141	IPhone	1,716.50	5,630.12	17
142	IPhone	1,710.87	5,611.65	12
143	IPhone	1,712.16	5,615.88	15

C-008 SL-27 Inspection Map



4/18/2024

1:29,341



USGS The National Map: National Boundaries Dataset, 3DEP Elevation Program, Geographic Names Information System, National Hydrography