

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

C1981022, Elk Creek Mine, April Inspection Report

1 message

Simmons - DNR, Leigh <leigh.simmons@state.co.us> To: Doug Smith <Doug.Smith@oxbow.com>

Mon, Apr 29, 2024 at 12:50 PM

Doug,

Attached is the report of an inspection I conducted on April 19. I didn't find anyone in the mine office, so I went around the main facilities area alone.

There were no issues.

Leigh

Leigh Simmons Environmental Protection Specialist



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INSP-REPORTC_C1981022_LDS_04292024115616.pdf



PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1981-022	County: Delta, Gunnison	
Mine Name: Elk Creek Mine	Operation Type: Underground	
Operator: Oxbow Mining, LLC	Permit Status: Active	
Operator Address:	Ownership: Private	
Mr Doug Smith		
3737 Hwy 133	Operator Representative Present:	
P. O. Box 535		
Somerset, CO 81434	N/A	
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)		

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: April 19, 2 Inspection Start Time: 09:00 Inspection End Date: Inspection End Time:	2024		Inspection Type: Coal Partial Inspection Inspection Reason: Normal I&E Program Weather: Clear	
Joint Inspection Agency: Joint Inspection Agency:		Joint	Joint Inspection Contacts:	
None				
Post Inspection Agency:		Post	Inspection Contacts:	
None				
Inspector(s):	Inspector's Signature: Signature Date:			
Leigh Simmons	Di		April 29, 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
 N - Slides and Other Damage
 N - Fish & Wildlife
 N - Support Facilities On-site
 R - Hydrologic Balance
 N - Signs and Markers

N - 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 a partial inspection by Leigh Simmons of the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division). The weather was clear and dry. The status of the Elk Creek Mine is "active" however no coal is being mined and the only activity since the last inspection was site maintenance.

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:

Water was flowing in the Elk Creek channel, though not at an especially high flow rate. The repairs to the lower section of the channel following the damage caused by 2023 spring run-off appeared to be stable. There was no sign of any water in the channel migrating around the remaining culvert sections, and the concrete aprons upstream of the culvert inlets seemed to be effective. Some repairs had been made to the backfill around the inlet to the middle section of culvert.

Both ponds C and E were dry.

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

Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization; Placement:

The West Valley Fill and the II West Valley Fill were both inspected using a drone. Although the images are a little over-exposed, both fills appeared to be stable and well vegetated.

DOCUMENTS RECEIVED

N/A

OTHER (SPECIFY)

N/A

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCENo enforcement actions were initiated as a result of this inspection, nor are any pending.



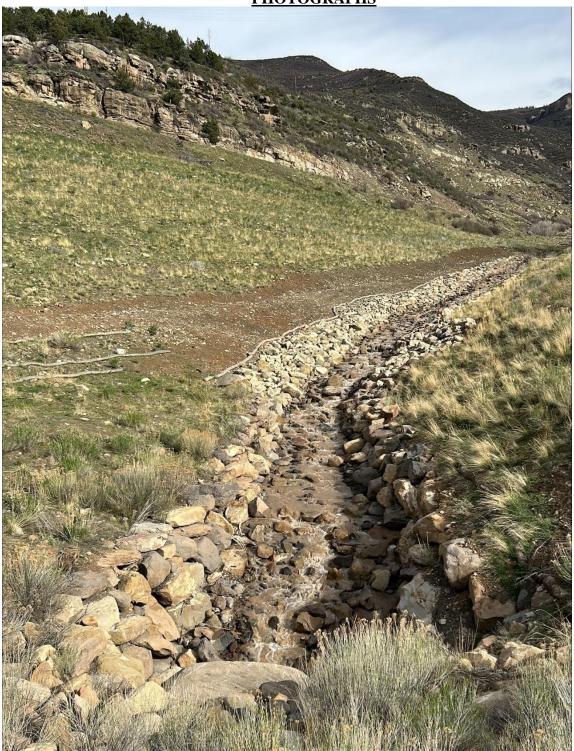


Figure 1: Lower section of Elk Creek channel, with repair on left bank



Figure 2: Lower section of Elk Creek channel from drone (1 of 2)



Figure 3: Lower section of Elk Creek channel from drone (2 of 2)



Figure 4: Upper section of Elk Creek channel



Figure 5: Repair to backfill around inlet to middle section of Elk Creek culvert



Figure 6: Upper section of Elk Creek channel from drone



Figure 7: Upper facilities pad



Figure 8: West Valley Fill



Figure 9: Lower part of West Valley Fill, and Pond C



Figure 10: Road to II West Valley Fill



Figure 11: II West Valley Fill



Figure 12: Lower section of II West Valley Fill, and pond E