

**STATE OF
COLORADO****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>

Mon, Apr 29, 2024 at 12:50 PM

To: Doug Smith <Doug.Smith@oxbow.com>

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



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

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INSP-REPORTC_C1981022_LDS_04292024115616.pdf
5448K



PERMIT INFORMATION

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

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: April 19, 2024 Inspection Start Time: 09:00 Inspection End Date: Inspection End Time:	Inspection Type: Coal Partial Inspection Inspection Reason: Normal I&E Program Weather: Clear
Joint Inspection Agency: None	Joint Inspection Contacts:
Post Inspection Agency: None	Post Inspection Contacts:
Inspector(s): Leigh Simmons	Inspector's Signature:  Signature Date: 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

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 7

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 3

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

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

PHOTOGRAPHS

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

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

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Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 3



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

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 7

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 3



Figure 4: Upper section of Elk Creek channel

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 7

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 3



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



Figure 6: Upper section of Elk Creek channel from drone

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Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 3



Figure 7: Upper facilities pad

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Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 3



Figure 8: West Valley Fill

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 7

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 3



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

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Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 3



Figure 10: Road to II West Valley Fill

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Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 3



Figure 11: II West Valley Fill

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 7

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 3



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

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