

STATE OF
COLORADO

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

May Partial Inspection Report

1 message

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

Wed, May 15, 2024 at 3:13 PM

To: Kurt Blunt <kblunt@deserado.com>

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

Kurt,

Attached is the report for the May partial inspection. As we discussed during the inspection there are items I noted for maintenance. Repairing rills on the embankment of the RP-4 Pond and also filling in an animal burrow on the opposite embankment of RP-4. Please let me know if you have any questions. Hope you have a good week.

Thanks,
Todd

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Environmental Protection Specialist
Minerals Program, Grand Junction Field Office



2024-05-15 INSP-REPORT_C1981018.pdf

1794K



COLORADO


Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety

Department of Natural Resources

PERMIT INFORMATION

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

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: May 1, 2024 Inspection Start Time: 09:45 Inspection End Date: May 1, 2024 Inspection End Time: 12:15		Inspection Type: Coal Partial Inspection Inspection Reason: Normal I&E Program Weather: Cloudy	
Joint Inspection Agency: None		Joint Inspection Contacts: NA	
Post Inspection Agency: None		Post Inspection Contacts: NA	
Inspector(s): Todd Jesse	Inspector's Signature: 		Signature Date: 5/15/24

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

N - Backfill & Grading

N - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

R - Explosives

R - Fish & Wildlife

R - Hydrologic Balance

Y - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Other

N - Processing Waste

R - Roads

R - Reclamation Success

N - Revegetation

N - Subsidence

N - Slides and Other Damage

R - Support Facilities On-site

R - Signs and Markers

N - Support Facilities Not On-site

N - Special Categories Of Mining

R - Topsoil

COMMENTS

This report documents the Division's observations taken during a complete inspection of the Deserado Mine conducted May 1, 2024. 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 muddy off main travel ways and some auxiliary roads were not accessible due to mud. Surface crews continue to complete spring maintenance items.

Maintenance Items Still to be Completed:

1. Please fill animal burrow in the embankment of Pond RP-4.
2. Please repair the rills on the embankments to Pond RP-4.

Please fill animal burrow in the embankment of Pond RP-4 and provide the Division with photos of the completed maintenance item by June 15, 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.

EXPLOSIVES – Rule 4.08

Distance Prohibitions 4.08.4; Warnings 4.08.4; Control of Adverse Effects 4.08.4:

The explosives storage area for the Deserado Mine is located at the southern end of the main facilities area. The storage consists of a pad with a storage bunker for the explosives. The cut and fill slope of the pad was stable with no erosional features. Runoff from the pad is directed to an outlet at the southeastern end of the pad and passes down a channel through straw bales. Straw bales are in good condition and appear to be functioning as designed.

FISH and WILDLIFE – Rule 4.18:

Wildlife species were observed throughout the mine site. A half a dozen deer were seen along CR-65 within the permit boundary. There were a large number of frogs heard in upper cell of Pond RP-2/3. An Osprey was observed in a nest perched above the Process Water Pond.

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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 erosional concerns identified. The ditches that convey water from the benches to the pond are in good condition with no maintenance items noted. 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 (Photo 1). 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. Water diversion ditches throughout the main facilities area were unobstructed and stable (Photo 2).

The B Seam Dewatering System No. 1 was active during the inspection. Cells were impounding water. (Photo 3) There was well established vegetation on the embankments of the cells. The cells were stable with no erosional or other stability features noted. The Last Chance Pond was discharging at the time of the inspection.

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. 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.

Culverts around the Nitrogen Plant to the south of the Slot Storage were partially filled with sediment. The culverts were cleared by the operator during the inspection and now appear to be free of obstruction and able to properly convey water. (Photo 4)

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 has been cleared of brush and appears to be able to conduct water normally. (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

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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 7) An animal burrow was discovered on the opposite embankment. Please fill the animal burrow 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.

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.

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. The roads were damp and a no 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, and the conveyor corridor. The main facilities for the Deserado mine are composed of three benches. The lower bench

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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.

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.

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, Halandras Landfill and Rail Loop. 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 PP-1



Photo 2: View to the northwest of ditch in facilities area

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Photo 1: View to the southeast of Pond DP-1 with conveyance ditch in foreground.



Photo 3: View to the east of B Seam Dewatering System #1



Photo 4: View to the south of culvert that was cleared next to the Nitrogen Plant.

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Photo 5: View to the north of erosional scar in the Rail Loadout Pond. The scar does not appear to have grown in size.



Photo 6: View to the west of Rail Loadout Ditch after it was cleaned.

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Photo 7: View to the south of rills that have extended into the RP-4 Pond.



Photo 8: View to the southeast of animal burrow in the RP-4 Pond embankment.

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