



STATE OF
COLORADO

Zuber - DNR, Rob <rob.zuber@state.co.us>

Keenesburg Strip Mine inspection report

1 message

Zuber - DNR, Rob <rob.zuber@state.co.us>

Thu, May 30, 2024 at 9:39 AM

To: "Moline, Ben" <ben.moline@molsoncoors.com>

Hello, Ben -

I was at the Keenesburg site yesterday, and attached is the associated report.

Rob

Rob Zuber, P.E.
Environmental Protection Specialist
Active Mines Regulatory Program



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

I am working remotely and can be reached by cell at 720.601.2276.

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INSP-REPORTC_C1981028_RDZ_05302024.pdf


1320K



PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1981-028 Mine Name: Keenesburg Strip Mine Operator: Coors Energy Company Operator Address: Mr. Ben Moline P.O. Box 4030 Golden, CO 80402	County: Weld Operation Type: Surface Permit Status: Permanent Cessation Ownership: Private
	Operator Representative Present: None
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) 	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: May 29, 2024 Inspection Start Time: 13:15 Inspection End Date: May 29, 2024 Inspection End Time: 14:15	Inspection Type: Coal Complete Inspection Inspection Reason: Normal I&E Program Weather: Cloudy
Joint Inspection Agency: None	Joint Inspection Contacts:
Post Inspection Agency: None	Post Inspection Contacts:
Inspector(s): Robert Zuber, P.E.	Inspector's Signature:  Signature Date: 5/30/2024

Inspection Topic Summary

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

Y - Air Resource Protection

R - Availability of Records

NA - Backfill & Grading

NA - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

NA - Explosives

R - Fish & Wildlife

R - Hydrologic Balance

R - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Other

NA - Processing Waste

NA - Roads

R - Reclamation Success

R - Revegetation

NA - Subsidence

Y - Slides and Other Damage

NA - Support Facilities On-site

Y - Signs and Markers

NA - Support Facilities Not On-site

NA - Special Categories Of Mining

NA - Topsoil

COMMENTS

A complete inspection was conducted by Rob Zuber of DRMS on May 29, 2024. No Coors Energy Company (CEC) representative was present at the inspection.

The site is in Permanent Cessation. Most reclamation activities were completed in the fall of 2020. Due to poor success in some areas, however, Coors Energy reclaimed some areas again (harrowing and seeding) in the spring of 2022 and fall of 2023.

A gas pipeline has been marked along the northern fence, west of Sediment Pond 2. This was done by a locate company to aid with an impending soils and vegetation class by OSMRE.

The weather was cloudy and hot for May. The ground was dry.

AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS – Rule 5.02.4(1):

The records were lacking many current documents, including the insurance certificate, financial bond, Annual Reclamation/Hydrology Report, pond inspections, pest and weed reports, and DRMS inspection reports.

Ben Moline of Coors Energy Company has indicated, via phone conversation, that he will update the records on June 3, 2024.

Please see the list of records below.

FISH and WILDLIFE – Rule 4.18:

A pronghorn was seen laying in the grass at Area 25.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 7

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 4

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:

Sediment Pond 2 and the Dugout Pond contained no visible water. In both ponds the bottom is obscured by heavy vegetation. They were not discharging during the inspection. There were no signs that either pond had discharged recently. No problems were observed.

GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE:

The northern boundary of the site (the down gradient side) was observed, and no signs of pollutant loading from the mine site, or any other problems, were seen. All other sides were also observed, and no problems were seen.

RECLAMATION SUCCESS - Rule 4.15, Rule 3:

No erosion problems were seen onsite.

REVEGETATION – Rule 4.15

Vegetative Cover; Timing:

The southwest corner of the site (Areas 29 – 32) were observed from afar, and the cover appears to be excellent.

To date, revegetation in other areas has varied; the following observations were made:

Area 34 – The grass is relatively tall in this area, and very little cheat grass was seen.

Area 35 (B Pit) – Some cheat grass was seen. Most of the cover is desirable grasses.

Area 37 – On the east side of this area, green grass, sunflowers, and other desirable species were seen. In the southwest corner of this area (which was harrowed and re-seeded in 2023), a large amount of cheat grass is present.

Area 38 – Desirable grasses are growing in this area, and there was not a lot of cheat grass.

Area 42 – Along the reclaimed road south of Area 25, some desirable grasses are growing, but the dominant species is cheat grass.

DOCUMENTS RECEIVED - none

OTHER (SPECIFY) - none

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

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

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PHOTOGRAPHS



Sediment Pond 2, looking east towards spillway



North boundary, looking west

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East side of Area 37, with emerging grasses



Southwest corner of Area 37, with cheat grass

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West side of permit area, looking northwest



Southwest corner of permit area, looking south

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AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS

PERMIT RECORDS		HYDROLOGIC RECORDS	
DRMS Permit	Exp. 11/3/2026	NPDES Permit	NA
Permit Application w/Revisions	yes	NPDES Records	NA
Findings Document	RN-08 (April 2022)	Stormwater Management Plan	NA
Insurance Certificate	Exp. 11/1/2023	SPCC Plan	Updated 2012
Bond Document	\$1,197,459 (2016, not current)	MSHA Pond Inspections	NA
Phased Bond Release	SL-11		NA
Documents/Findings	(12/1/2022)	State Engineer's Pond Inspection	
Air Emission Permits	123008803	Quarterly Pond Inspections	8/9/2023
County Special Use Permits	Weld #1160, #386	Annual Hydrology Reports	2022
UG Mining Landowner Notification	NA	• Ground Water Monitoring	yes
Subsidence Monitoring Reports	NA	• Surface Water Monitoring	NA
Subsidence Monitoring Data	NA	• Spring & Seep Monitoring	NA
Rill & Gully Survey	NA	• Mine Water Discharge Monitoring	NA
Vegetation Monitoring Data	2022 ARR	• Mine Inflow Study	NA
Specific Variance Approvals	NA	• Water Consumption Records	NA
Annual Reclamation Reports	2022	Well Permits	*2
Midterm Review Documents	MT-07 (May 2019)		
DRMS/OSM Inspection	Through	BLASTING RECORDS	
Reports/Enforcement Actions (3 Yrs)	Sept. 2023	Blasting Publication	NA
Transfers/Succession of Operator	NA	Blasting Records (3 years)	NA
Temporary Cessation Notification	NA	ATFE Explosives Permit	NA *3
Reclamation Cost Estimate	*1	Blasting Variances	NA
CERTIFICATIONS			
Pond Certifications	Yes	Pre-Blast Surveys	NA
Annual Certifications for Large	NA		
Impoundments		ADDITIONAL RECORDS (specify)	
Fill Certifications for Excess Spoil or	NA		
Underground Development Waste		Pest and Weed report	9/22/2023
• Quarterly Inspections	NA		
• Compaction Testing	NA		
• Final Certification	NA		
Coal Processing Waste Banks	NA		
Haul Road Certifications	NA		
Access Road Certifications	NA		

COMMENTS:

*1 RCE is \$818,406 (SL-11)

*2 Domestic use well and fire protection well (048289f, 24650f)

*3 No explosives used since 1995.

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