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

PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1981-019 **Mine Name:** Colowyo Coal Mine **Operator:** Colowyo Coal Company L.P. **Operator Address:** Mr Tony Tennyson 5731 State Highway 13 Meeker, CO 81641	**County:** Moffat, Rio Blanco **Operation Type:** Surface **Permit Status:** Active **Ownership:** Private
	Operator Representative Present: None
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: May 28, 2024 **Inspection Start Time:** 13:00 **Inspection End Date:** May 28, 2024 **Inspection End Time:** 13:30	**Inspection Type:** Aerial 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):	**Inspector's Signature:**	**Signature Date:**
Hunter Ridley	Hunter Ridley	May 31, 2024

1313 Sherman St. Room 215
Denver, CO 80203
(303) 866-3567

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
Y - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste
Y - Explosives
N - Fish & Wildlife
Y - Hydrologic Balance
N - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan
N - Other
N - Processing Waste
Y - Roads
Y - Reclamation Success
N - Revegetation
N - Subsidence
N - Slides and Other Damage
Y - Support Facilities On-site
N - Signs and Markers
N - Support Facilities Not On-site
N - Special Categories Of Mining
Y - Topsoil

COMMENTS

This was a partial inspection of the Colowyo Coal Mine; DRMS Permit No. C-1981-019, operated by Colowyo Coal Company (Colowyo). The inspection was conducted aerially by Brock Bowles with the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division). Images were analyzed and the report prepared by Hunter Ridley of the Division. The weather appeared clear on the day of inspection. The site was active at the time (Photos 11 and 12).

BACKFILL and GRADING – Rule 4.14
Contemporaneous Reclamation 4.14.1; Approximate Original Contour 4.14.2; Highwall Elimination 4.14.1(2)(f); Steep Slopes 4.14.2, 4.27; Handling of Acid and Toxic Materials 4.14.3; Stabilization of Rills and Gullies 4.14.6:

Backfill operations continue in the South Taylor Pit (Photo 2) and West Pit. A small highwall to the south of the West Pit and a highwall to the west of the South Taylor Pit remain to be backfilled. Material for this will be sourced from the South Taylor Pit's temporary spoil pile and from adjacent internal haul roads in final reclamation.

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 observed to be impounded across several areas of the site (Photos 4 and 13). This is assumed to be a result of recent snowmelt. The Operator is reminded that Colorado statute requires all stormwater to continuously release or infiltrate within the 72 / 120 hour time limits, depending on the magnitude of the storm event.

This aerial inspection allowed for observation of several ponds and ditches which were inaccessible during the Division's last inspection. This includes Section 16 Pond, Section 28 Pond, and Section 15 Pond. All ponds appeared to be stable. Section 15 and Section 28 Ponds were dry (Photo 8 and Photo 13). Section 16 Pond was holding water and appeared stable (Photo 7).

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Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 3

All three train loadout area ponds appeared to be holding water and free of observational issues (Photo 3). Main facilities ponds adjacent to the West Pit and north of the East Pit were holding water (Photo 4). Final East Pit ditch and the stock ponds located along its path (EP1, EP2, and EP3) looked to be free of issues with erosion or instability (Photo 8). In the West Pit, the Taylor Ditch showed no signs of erosion or instability. The East Taylor Pond was holding water (Photo 6). Section 25 and Section 26 Ponds in the Collom Pit were partially visible in aerial photographs (Photo 10). Both ponds looked to be holding water and the slump area at Section 26 Pond appeared to still be stable.

TOPSOIL – Rule 4.06
Removal 4.06.2; Substitute Materials 4.06.4(4); Storage and Protection 4.06.3; Redistribution 4.06.4:

The topsoil pile located in the northernmost section of Collom Pit was photographed. It appears that material may have been recently added to the pile (Photo 10). This topsoil pile will need to be graded and seeded as soon as hauling to this area is complete.

RECLAMATION SUCCESS - Rule 4.15, Rule 3:

Photographs show the continued growth of stable vegetation in the West Pit (Photo 4). There were no signs of erosion across this area. A reclamation parcel located on the eastern side of the South Taylor Pit, which was inaccessible at the last inspection, was noted to be continuing to support vegetation (Photo 9).

SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

Aerial photographs showed the main facilities of Collom, East, West, and South Taylor Pit to be free of observational issues.

EXCESS SPOIL and DEVELOPMENT WASTE – Rule 4.09
Placement; Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization:

The West Taylor Valley Fill area looked to be vegetated and stable. Photographs showed signs of small rills along this fill slope (Photo 1). No BMPs are needed at this time. The West Taylor Pond was also visible in these photographs and appeared to be free of issues.

EXPLOSIVES – Rule 4.08
Distance Prohibitions 4.08.4; Warnings 4.08.4; Control of Adverse Effects 4.08.4:

The active truck and load section of the Collom Pit showed signs of prepping for additional blasts (Photo 12).

ROADS – Rule 4.03
Construction 4.03.1(3)/4.03.2(3), Drainage 4.03.1(4)/4.03.2(4), Surfacing and Maintenance4.03.1(5) and (6)/4.03.2(5) and (6), Reclamation 4.03.1(7)/4.03.2(7):

Several aerial photographs captured internal haul roads throughout the site. These roads looked well maintained and dry. A water truck was noted to be active on the haul road between East and West Pit (Photo 5).

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ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

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

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo 1: View easy of the West Taylor Pond & West Taylor valley fill area.

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Photo 2: View west of the South Taylor pit.

Photo 3: View of the train loadout area and Gossard pond, Stoker Siding pond, and Rail Loop pond.

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Photo 4: View southeast of the main facilities area and associated ponds.

Photo 5: View east of an internal haul road, water truck active in the area.

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Photo 6: View of the Taylor Ditch and East Taylor Pond.

Photo 7: View of Section 16 pond.

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Photo 8: View of Section 15 Pond and the final East Pit ditch and its associated stock ponds: EP1, EP2, and EP3.

Photo 9: Reclamation parcel located east of the South Taylor pit; the West Section 16 ditch is also visible.

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Photo 10: View east of a large topsoil pile located in Collom Pit, view of Section 25 (east) and Section 26 (west) ponds.

Photo 11: Active highwall mining area on the eastern side of Collom Pit.

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Photo 12: View west of the active Collom Pit, evidence of prepping for blasts, dragline is visible.

Photo 13: Section 28 Pond.

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Figure 14: View west of the south end of the Collom Pit, stormwater appears to be ponding in one area.

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