

STATE OF
COLORADO

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

New Horizon Mine, C-1981-008, May Complete Inspection Report

1 message

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

Wed, Jun 12, 2024 at 2:15 PM

To: "Tennyson, Tony (Colowyo)" <tony.tennyson@tristategt.org>

Good afternoon Tony,

Attached is the Division's report for the complete inspection of the New Horizon Mine conducted on May 29, 2024. Please note the one item in bold that needs to be updated in the records. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns,

Sincerely,

Clayton Wein

Environmental Protection Specialist



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

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**C-1981-008, New Horizon Mine May Complete Inspection Report_CCW.pdf**

1217K



PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1981-008 Mine Name: New Horizon Mine Operator: Elk Ridge Mining and Reclamation, LLC Operator Address: Mr. Tony Tennyson P.O. Box 628 27646 West 5th Avenue Nucla, CO 81424	County: Montrose Operation Type: Surface Permit Status: Active Ownership: Private
	Operator Representative Present: Jason Carver
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) 	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: May 29, 2024 Inspection Start Time: 12:45 Inspection End Date: Inspection End Time:		Inspection Type: Coal Complete Inspection Inspection Reason: Normal I&E Program Weather: Clear	
Joint Inspection Agency: None		Joint Inspection Contacts: None	
Post Inspection Agency: None		Post Inspection Contacts: None	
Inspector(s): Clayton Wein	Inspector's Signature: <i>Clayton Wein</i>		Signature Date: 6/12/2024

Inspection Topic Summary

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

N - Air Resource Protection

R - Availability of Records

Y - Backfill & Grading

N - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

N - Explosives

N - Fish & Wildlife

R - Hydrologic Balance

Y - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Other

N - Processing Waste

R - Roads

R - Reclamation Success

Y - 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 New Horizon Mine, Permit No. C-1981-008. The inspection was conducted on May 30, 2024 by Clayton Wein of the Division. Jason Carver represented Elk Ridge Mining and Reclamation during the inspection. The weather was clear with a temperature of 83° F. The ground conditions were dry.

AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS – Rule 5.02.4(1):

The records for the New Horizon Mine are located at the mine office in Nucla, CO. The records were well kept.

One item in the records needed to be updated with recent documents. The 1st quarter 2024 Pond Inspection Report was not in the records. Please update the records with this document as soon as possible. For more details, please see the Availability of Records Form attached to the end of this report.

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;

During the inspection, Pond 012 was dry. The embankment was stable with vegetative cover (Photo 1). The outlet for the pond was unobstructed. There were no indications of erosional features.

Pond 013 was receiving water from both the inlet from the French drain and the irrigation runoff. The pond was observed to be discharging through the primary outlet. The outlet was clear of blockages. The embankment for the pond was covered with vegetation and stable (Photo 2). No erosional concerns were identified.

Pond 015 was also dry at the time of the inspection (Photo 3). The embankments were in similar condition to the previous complete inspection that was conducted. Minor rills remain on the interior of the embankment. The rills have been noted in previous Division inspection reports. The rills have not impacted the stability of the pond. The outlet was clear and no new erosional concerns were observed.

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Pond 016 was dry (Photo 4). The pond's embankment was stable with vegetative cover. There were no indications of erosion. The outlet for the pond was observed to be clear of debris.

Pond 18 is located to the south of the mine office. The pond was dry. The embankment for the pond was covered with vegetation (Photo 5). There were no erosional features or indications of instability. The outlet for the pond was observed to be unobstructed.

During the inspection Irrigated Cropland IC-1 was actively being irrigated (Photo 6). The field's vegetation was green and had grown noticeably since the March and April 2024 Inspections. The field was stable with no erosional concerns.

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 Johnson Access road is located in section 36, bisecting Dryland pastures DP-20 and DP-21. The road was stable with no erosional concerns (Photo 7). The culverts underneath the access road were observed to be unobstructed (Photo 8). The inlets and outlets of the culverts are lined with riprap. The inlets and outlets were all stable with no erosion.

RECLAMATION SUCCESS - Rule 4.15, Rule 3:

The vegetation seeded in the fall of 2023 on DP-20 (Photo 9), DP-21 (Photo 10), Prime Farmland PF-1 and Irrigated Pasture IP-12 was growing in well this spring. The vegetation was beginning to cover most of the reclaimed areas and less barren ground was exposed. The reclamation was stable and no erosional features were observed.

SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

The mine office and shop are located on the south side of 5th Street on the western edge of Nucla. The pad for the facilities was well kept. There were no indications of instability. No erosional features were identified. Fuel is no longer stored in the tanks by the shop. The tanks do remain in place and were placed within a secondary containment structure.

SIGNS AND MARKERS – Rule 4.02:

Throughout the inspection of the mine site, several mine identification signs were observed posted on entrances to the permit area. The signs were all posted in unobstructed viewsheds. The signs were legible and contained information regarding the mine permit, the permittee and the Division. Topsoil pile markers were observed on top of the remaining topsoil stockpiles. The signs were placed in clear locations and were observed to be legible.

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 piles 11A and 11B (Photo 11) are located on the South side of IC-1. The piles were stable with

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vegetative cover. There were no erosional features observed. The perimeter ditches for the piles were clear of debris and stable.

Topsoil piles C, D and H are located just northeast of Pond 018. All three piles were observed to be stable with no erosional features. The piles were covered with vegetation. The perimeter ditches were unobstructed and stable.

DOCUMENTS RECEIVED: None

OTHER (SPECIFY): None

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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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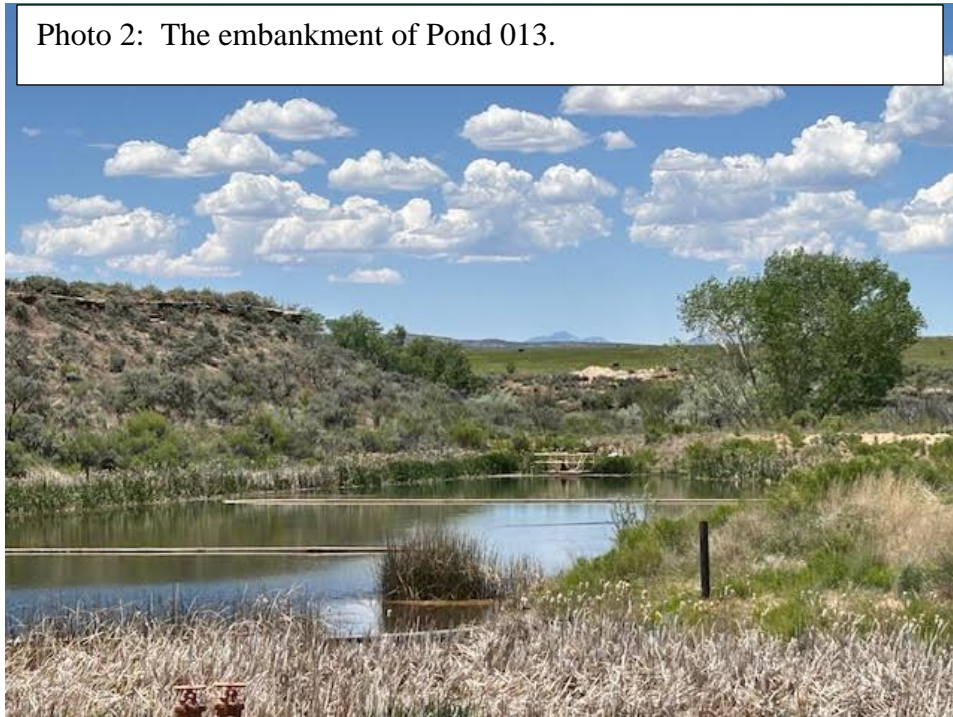
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PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo 1: The embankment and outlet of Pond 012.



Photo 2: The embankment of Pond 013.



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Photo 3: Pond 015.



Photo 4: Pond 016.



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Photo 5: Pond 018.



Photo 6: Irrigated Cropland IC-1 south of BB Road.



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Photo 7: The Johnson Access Road looking to the southeast.



Photo 8: The northern culvert inlet under the Johnson Access Road.



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Photo 9: Dryland Pasture DP-20 looking west.



Photo 10: Dryland Pasture DP-21 looking west.



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Photo 11: Topsoil Stockpile 11B.



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AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS**PERMIT RECORDS**

DRMS Permit	RN-8
Permit Application w/Revisions	Ok
Findings Document	RN-8/SL-26
Insurance Certificate	Exp. Aug.2024
Bond Document	RN-8
Phased Bond Release	SL-26
Documents/Findings	
Air Emission Permits	Ok
County Special Use Permits	Ok
UG Mining Landowner Notification	NA
Subsidence Monitoring Reports	NA
Subsidence Monitoring Data	NA
Rill & Gully Survey	NA
Vegetation Monitoring Data	2023 ARR/SL-25
Specific Variance Approvals	NA
Annual Reclamation Reports	2023
Midterm Review Documents	MT-7
DRMS/OSM Inspection Reports/Enforcement Actions (3 Years)	Up through 1 st Q. 2024
Transfers/Succession of Operator	Ok 2016
Temporary Cessation Notification	NA
Reclamation Cost Estimate	RN-8
CERTIFICATIONS	
Pond Certifications	OK
Annual Certifications for Impoundments	2023
Fill Certifications for Excess Spoil or Underground Development Waste	NA
• Quarterly Inspections	NA
• Compaction Testing	NA
• Final Certification	NA
Coal Processing Waste Banks	NA
Haul Road Certifications	Ok
Access Road Certifications	NA

HYDROLOGIC RECORDS

NPDES Permit	*2021
NPDES Records	1 st Q. 2023
Stormwater Management Plan	Ok 2019
SPCC Plan	NA
MSHA Pond Inspections	NA
	NA
State Engineer's Pond Inspection	
Quarterly Pond Inspections	Needs 1st Q. 2024
Annual Hydrology Reports	2023
• Ground Water Monitoring	Ok
• Surface Water Monitoring	OK
• Spring & Seep Monitoring	OK
• Mine Water Discharge Monitoring	Ok
• Mine Inflow Study	NA
• Water Consumption Records	OK
Well Permits	OK

BLASTING RECORDS

Blasting Publication	NA
Blasting Records (3 years)	OK
ATFE Explosives Permit	NA
Blasting Variances	NA
Pre-Blast Surveys	OK

ADDITIONAL RECORDS (specify)

COMMENTS: * ERMR has applied for CDPS permit (3/9/2021)

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