



STATE OF
COLORADO

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

New Horizon Mine, C-1981-008, SL-28 Inspection Report

1 message

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

Mon, Jul 1, 2024 at 2:17 PM

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

Good afternoon Tony,

Attached with my email is the Division's report for the two inspections conducted for the SL-28 Bond Release Application. 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, SL-28 Inspection Report_CCW.pdf

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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: Tony Tennyson 4/10/2024 Jason Carver 5/29/2024
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) 	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: April 10, 2024 Inspection Start Time: 10:10 Inspection End Date: April 10, 2024 Inspection End Time: 11:20		Inspection Type: Coal Partial Inspection Inspection Reason: Surety Release Requested 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: 7/1/2024		

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
 N - Explosives
 N - Fish & Wildlife
 N - Hydrologic Balance
 N - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan
 N - Other
 N - Processing Waste

N - Roads
 R - Reclamation Success
 N - Revegetation
 N - Subsidence
 N - Slides and Other Damage
 N - Support Facilities On-site
 N - Signs and Markers
 N - Support Facilities Not On-site
 N - Special Categories Of Mining
 N - Topsoil

COMMENTS

This report documents the observations taken by the Division during two inspections of the New Horizon Mine, Permit No. C-1981-008. The inspections were conducted following Elk Ridge Mining and Reclamation's (ERMR) request for a bond release, Bond Release Application no. SL-28. The first inspection was conducted on April 10, 2024. Clayton Wein of the Division conducted the inspection. Tony Tennyson Represented ERMR during the inspection. The second inspection was conducted on May 29, 2024 by Clayton Wein of the Division. Jason Carver was present during the inspection to represent ERMR.

The SL-28 Bond Release Application requested the release of the reclamation liability for the sealing and abandonment of five backfill monitoring wells and seven exploration holes. The request was for the well casings only, the footprints for the drill pads associated with all 12 locations were included in previous bond releases. No acreage was requested for release with the SL-28 Application.

RECLAMATION SUCCESS - Rule 4.15, Rule 3:

Exploration Wells:

Seven exploration holes were requested for release with the application. Four of the exploration holes were located in the Section 36. The remaining three exploration holes were located in Section 1. All seven exploration holes were mined through and reclaimed when the mine pits were reclaimed. These wells included NH2004-01, NH2004-02, NH2004-03, NH2004-04, NH2004-05, NH2004-06 and NH2004-07. During the inspection, the Division used Field Maps with a georeferenced map of the New Horizon Mine to locate the seven exploration wells. Each location for the wells had been reclaimed and there was no exploration hole remaining. The sites for the exploration wells were stable and there were no erosional concerns. Due to the exploration holes being mined through. There were no markers on the surface. Please see Photos one through seven for the locations of the exploration wells. The exploration holes have been abandoned and reclaimed as per the C-1981-008 Permit Application requirements.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 7

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 4

Backfill Monitoring Wells:

Backfill monitoring wells MW BF-60, MW BF-62 and MW BF64 were located in Section 36. Backfill monitoring well MW BF-66 was in Section 6 just east of 2700 Road. Backfill monitoring well MN BF-67 was in Section 31 just north of BB Road. The five wells were sealed and abandoned in November of 2023. The SL-28 application included the abandonment reports. The release request was just for the well casings and not the pads associated with the wells. The pads have been included in previous releases and/or will be included in future bond release requests. All three of the well casings were sealed by placing clean sand in the bottom of the well. The filling the well casing up to 5 feet below the surface with bentonite chips. The last 5 feet of the well casing was removed and then backfilled with native soil.

Wells MN BF-66 and 67 are located on private property that had recently been sold from ERM to new landowners the Friday before the April 10, 2024 inspection. The Division was notified of the sale during the April 10, 2024 inspection. The parcel that MN BF-66 was on was sold to Garvey and CO., LLC. The Parcel MN BF-67 was on was sold to Mr. James Fourney. The two landowners were modified by ERM of the requested bond release in letters dated April 22, 2024. The Division was unable to inspect the precise GPS point for these two locations on April 10th due to them being on private land. The Division inspected these two wells from the side of the roads. Each of the five sites of the monitoring backfill wells was stable and in good condition. There was no disturbance to the sites observed caused by the abandonment process for the wells. No cap or marker was left on the surface of the locations of the wells, indicating that the top five feet were backfilled with native soil. Both well casings were sealed by placing clean sand in the bottom of the well. The filling the well casing up to 5 feet below the surface with bentonite chips. The last 5 feet of the well casing was removed and then backfilled with native soil. No evidence of a monitoring well remained at the five sites. Please refer to photos eight through twelve for the backfill wells inspected on April 10, 2024.

The Division was able to get in touch with Garvey and CO., LLC and was granted permission by the landowner to access their land on the Division's May 29, 2024 inspection. The Division used Field Maps to locate the spot where MN BF-66 was located. The site was stable with no erosional features. The activities of sealing and abandoning the well did not impact the surface. No marker or casing were identified indicating that the five feet from the surface had the casing removed as written in the abandonment report. Please refer to Photo thirteen for MN BF-66 inspected on May 29, 2024.

The five backfill monitoring wells have been abandoned and reclaimed as per the C-1981-008 Permit Application requirements.

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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PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo 1: NH2004-01.

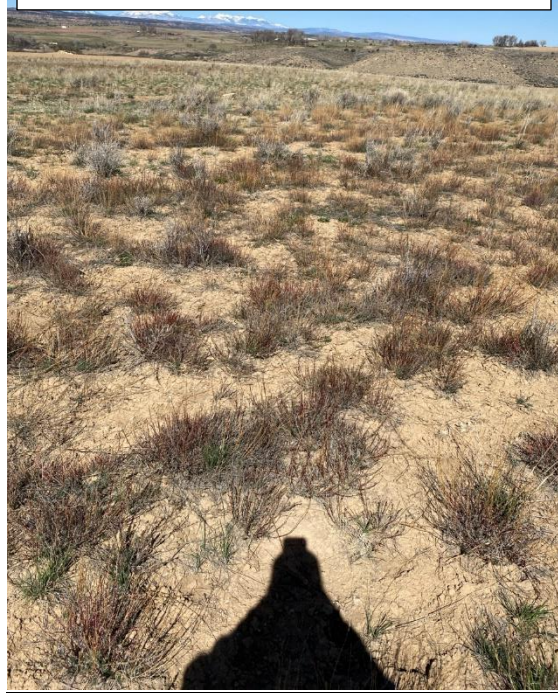


Photo 2: NH2004-02.



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Photo 3: NH2004-03.



Photo 4: NH2004-04.



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Photo 5: NH2004-05.



Photo 6: NH2004-06.



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Photo 7: NH2004-07.



Photo 8: MN BF-60.



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Photo 9: MN BF-62.



Photo 10: MN BF-64.



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Photo 11: MN BF-066 April 10, 2024.



Photo 12: MN BF-67.



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Photo 13: MN BF-66 on May 29, 2024.



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