



STATE OF
COLORADO

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

Inspection report for Bowie #2

1 message

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Tue, Jul 2, 2024 at 10:05 AM

To: Basil Bear <basilbear@wolverinefuels.com>, Tamme Bishop <tammekb@gmail.com>

Hello -

Here is my report for Bowie #2.

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



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

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INSP-REPORTC_C1996083_RDZ_07022024.pdf
3170K



PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1996-083 Mine Name: Bowie No. 2 Mine Operator: Bowie Resources, LLC Operator Address: Mr. Basil Bear P.O. Box 1488 Paonia, CO 81428	County: Delta Operation Type: Underground Permit Status: Active Ownership: Private
	Operator Representative Present: Ryan Wilson
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) 	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: June 26, 2024 Inspection Start Time: 09:30 Inspection End Date: June 26, 2024 Inspection End Time: 11:45		Inspection Type: Coal Partial 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): Robert Zuber, P.E.	Inspector's Signature: 		Signature Date: 7/2/2024

Inspection Topic Summary

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

Y - Air Resource Protection

N - Availability of Records

Y - Backfill & Grading

NA - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

NA - Explosives

N - Fish & Wildlife

R - Hydrologic Balance

Y - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Other

R - Processing Waste

R - Roads

Y - Reclamation Success

R - Revegetation

Y - Subsidence

R - Slides and Other Damage

R - Support Facilities On-site

Y - Signs and Markers

N - Support Facilities Not On-site

Y - Special Categories Of Mining

R - Topsoil

COMMENTS

A partial inspection was conducted by Rob Zuber of DRMS on June 26, 2024. The Bowie No. 2 Mine is operated by Bowie Resources, LLC (BRL). A pre-inspection meeting was held with Ryan Wilson (of Wolverine Fuels, parent of BRL) at the onsite office. Mr. Wilson stated that BRL staff were spraying weeds at remote locations of the permit area, including pads for gob vent boreholes.

The bond compliance project (related to inspections in spring 2024) is complete. A memorandum has been filed in the Division's document system, Laserfiche. The memorandum includes a brief discussion of the project and lists several items that need to be added to the reclamation cost estimate; this will be done in October with the midterm review for the Bowie No. 2 Mine.

The weather was clear and warm. The ground was dry.

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:

Four sediment ponds were inspected: C, D, F, and J. None of the ponds were close to discharging, but at least three of them contained water. The bottom of Pond J is obscured by cattails, and no water was seen. No significant problems were identified with embankments, spillways, inlet channels, or other features of the ponds. However, the Division recommends that willows and small trees be removed or killed on the pond side of Pond J. The Fire Mountain Canal was flowing full.

No problems were identified with existing ditches, including the diversion ditches above Gob Pile #2. The ditch below the upper part of the pile has been moved; this should be documented with an as-built drawing when reclamation of the pile is completed. Also, the ditch that flows to the east from the upper portion of this pile needs to be rebuilt. BMPs to limit sediment loading off the top of the pile should be replaced as soon as practical.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 8

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 4

PROCESSING WASTE/COAL MINE WASTE PILES – Rule 4.10 and 4.11**Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization; Placement:**

Gob Piles 1, 2, 3, and 4 appeared stable. No problem was identified at the repaired blow out on Gob Pile #4, which occurred in the spring of 2023. The east side of Gob Pile #3 is very steep (estimated to be 2.5H:1V) and needs additional grading work.

The upper slope of Gob Pile #2 has recently been graded and is less steep than it has been for several years. It appears to be flatter than 3H:1V. This follows the reclamation plan in Volume IX of the PAP. Some cover material has recently been spread on the graded slope.

The flat area of Gob Pile #2 is generally in good shape, with no erosion or large low areas that allow puddles. BRL must continue to keep this area flat so that stormwater runs off and does not infiltrate into the pile.

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 road to the portals was in adequate condition. The slopes adjacent to this road are generally stable, except for the slide at Curve 10 (see Slides and Other Damage section).

REVEGETATION – Rule 4.15**Vegetative Cover; Timing:**

Thistle plants were seen by the retaining wall below the B Portal bench and near Curve 10. Halogeton was seen on the upper portions of Gob Pile #2.

Gob Pile #3 was covered with a plant that appears to be lamb's quarter. This species is not noxious and will provide some erosion control prior to spreading topsoil and seeding this area with desirable reclamation species.

Near the northwest corner of Gob Pile #3, below the coal stockpile, and on Topsoil Stockpile A, perennial sweetpea was seen. It has a pink flower. This is not noxious but should be controlled if it spreads considerably.

Evidence of weed spraying was seen around the site, for example thistle on Gob Pile #2.

SLIDES and DAMAGE - Rule 4.12:

No problems were seen on the slopes above and below the benches and other areas (e.g., the slope next to the old power plant). The slides above the B Portal Bench and Curve 11 (noted in the past) look stable. The slide above Curve Number 10 appears to have moved since the last inspection. This is an ongoing project for BRL.

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SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

The following areas appeared stable with no signs of erosion:

- Utility Bench
- D Portal bench and storage area to the east
- B Portal bench
- Material storage area beside Topsoil Stockpile A
- Conveyor corridors
- Slopes above and below the Coal Stockpile Pad
- The area around the office
- Preparation Plant and nearby water tank
- Pump House and Filter Building
- Old power plant
- Storage area west of Pond D

TOPSOIL – Rule 4.06

Removal 4.06.2; Substitute Materials 4.06.4(4); Storage and Protection 4.06.3; Redistribution 4.06.4:

No erosion or other problems were seen with topsoil stockpiles or coverfill piles.

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



Gob Pile #3 from above



Lamb's quarter on Gob Pile #3

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Recent grading of slope on Gob Pile #2



Disassembled BMPs on Gob Pile #2 – need to be reassembled when practical

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Ditch on Gob Pile #2 that needs to be constructed



Placement of fill at Gob Pile #2

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Plant at Topsoil Stockpile A (perennial sweetpea) – control if it spreads significantly



Plant at Topsoil Stockpile A (likely a member of pea family) – control if it spreads significantly

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Slump at B Portal bench



Soil stockpile near Curve 10

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Slide at Curve 10 – appears to still be moving

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