



STATE OF
COLORADO

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

New Horizon Mine, C-1981-008, June Partial Inspection Report

1 message

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Tue, Jul 2, 2024 at 2:24 PM

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

Good afternoon Tony,

Attached is the Division's report for the partial inspection of the New Horizon Mine conducted on June 20, 2024. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Clayton Wein

Environmental Protection Specialist



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

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New Horizon Mine, C-1981-008, June 2024 Partial Inspection Report_CCW.pdf

700K



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: Mindy Sickles
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) 	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: June 20, 2024 Inspection Start Time: 12:10 Inspection End Date: June 20, 2024 Inspection End Time: 13:30		Inspection Type: Coal Partial Inspection Inspection Reason: Normal I&E Program Weather: Cloudy	
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: 7/2/2024

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

R - Hydrologic Balance

Y - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Other

N - Processing Waste

R - 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

R - Topsoil

COMMENTS

This report documents the Division's observations taken during a partial inspection of the New Horizon Mine, Permit No. C-1981-008. The inspection was conducted on June 20, 2024 by Clayton Wein of the Division. Elk Ridge Mining and Reclamation was represented during the inspection by Mindy Sickles. The weather was overcast and windy with a temperature of 84° F. The ground conditions were dry. A slight bit of rain occurred during the inspection, but not enough to dampen the ground surface.

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:

Pond 013 was receiving water from both of its inlet pipes (Photo 1). The amount of water impounded in the pond reached the primary discharge pipe and discharge was occurring. The embankment for the pond was stable and vegetated. There were no erosional concerns identified. The outlet for the pond was clear of obstructions.

Pond 016 was dry during the inspection (Photo 2). The embankment for the pond was vegetated and stable. No erosional features were observed. The outlet for the pond was clear of debris.

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 was traversed during the inspection. The access road enters the permit boundary from BB Road and extends to Pond 013. The road was stable with no erosional features. Culverts underneath the road were clear of blockages and no erosional concerns were noted.

RECLAMATION SUCCESS - Rule 4.15, Rule 3:

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 8

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 4

The Primary focus of this inspection was to check the relatively new reclamation located within Section 36. Parcels DP-18, DP-20 (Photo 3 and 4), DP-21 (Photo 3), PF-1 (Photo 5) and IP-12 were backfilled, topsoiled, graded and seeded in late 2023. DP-21 is located on the west side of the Johnson Access Road. Vegetation was beginning to grow in well for the first season. There were minimal areas observed with sparse vegetation. DP-21 was stable and there were no indications of erosional features. DP-20 is located on the east side of the Johnson Access Road. The reclamation was observed to be stable with vegetative cover. No indications of erosional features were observed. Vegetative growth was doing well for the first season. DP-18 is located to the northeast of DP-20. The reclamation had no indications of instability or erosion. The parcel was covered with new vegetative growth. PF-1 is located on the east side of DP-20. The prime farmland parcel was stable with vegetative cover. There were no erosional features. Vegetation on the parcel was growing well for its first season. IP-12 is located on the east side of PF-1. The irrigated pasture had no indications of erosion or instability. The first season of vegetation was starting out well.

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 pile 15 was inspected. The topsoil pile was stable with vegetation. There were no indications of erosion. The perimeter ditch was also stable. There were no blockages observed in the ditch. No loss of topsoil was noted. The topsoil pile marker was observed to be posted.

Topsoil Pile 16 was also visited. The pile was stable with vegetative cover (Photo 6). There were no erosional features observed. The perimeter ditch was dry and stable. The ditch had no debris in it. There was no loss of topsoil resource observed.

DOCUMENTS RECEIVED: None

OTHER (SPECIFY): None

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 8

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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: Pond 013 Inlet looking to the west.



Photo 2: The eastern portion of Pond 016.



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Photo 3: DP-20 is in the foreground of the photo and DP-21 is in the distance towards the middle of the Photo.



Photo 4: The southern portion of DP-20.



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Photo 5: PF-1's western portion meeting the boundary of DP-20.



Photo 6: Topsoil Stockpile 16.



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