

STATE OF
COLORADO

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Inspection report for C1981-028

1 message

Zuber - DNR, Rob <rob.zuber@state.co.us>
To: "Moline, Ben" <ben.moline@molsoncoors.com>

Wed, Jul 3, 2024 at 4:33 PM

Ben -

Here is the report from this week. As we say in the text, we will get into more detail in the findings document.

Take care,
Rob

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_C1981028_RDZ_07032024.pdf
2752K



PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1981-028 Mine Name: Keenesburg Strip Mine Operator: Coors Energy Company Operator Address: Mr. Ben Moline P.O. Box 4030 Golden, CO 80402	County: Weld Operation Type: Surface Permit Status: Permanent Cessation Ownership: Private
	Operator Representative Present: Ben Moline
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: June 25, 2024 Inspection Start Time: 08:00 Inspection End Date: June 25, 2024 Inspection End Time: 11:00	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., Brock Bowles, Joel Renfro	Inspector's Signature:  Signature Date: 7/3/2024

Inspection Topic Summary

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

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

COMMENTS

The Keenesburg Strip Mine (C-1981-028) is located approximately five miles north of the town of Keenesburg in Weld County. On May 14, 2024, the Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety (Division) received a bond release application (SL-12) for this permit from Habitat Management, Inc., working on behalf of the permittee, Coors Energy Company (CEC). This application is for Phase II release of Area 30 and Phase III (final) release of Areas 23, 29, 30, and 31. Please see the map below. The four areas of interest are in the southwest corner (lower left on map).

The report includes:

- Bond release calculations
- A sedimentology demonstration (for the Phase II area)
- Detailed vegetation data to demonstrate success and compliance with revegetation requirements
- A notarized Statement of Compliance
- Public notice information.

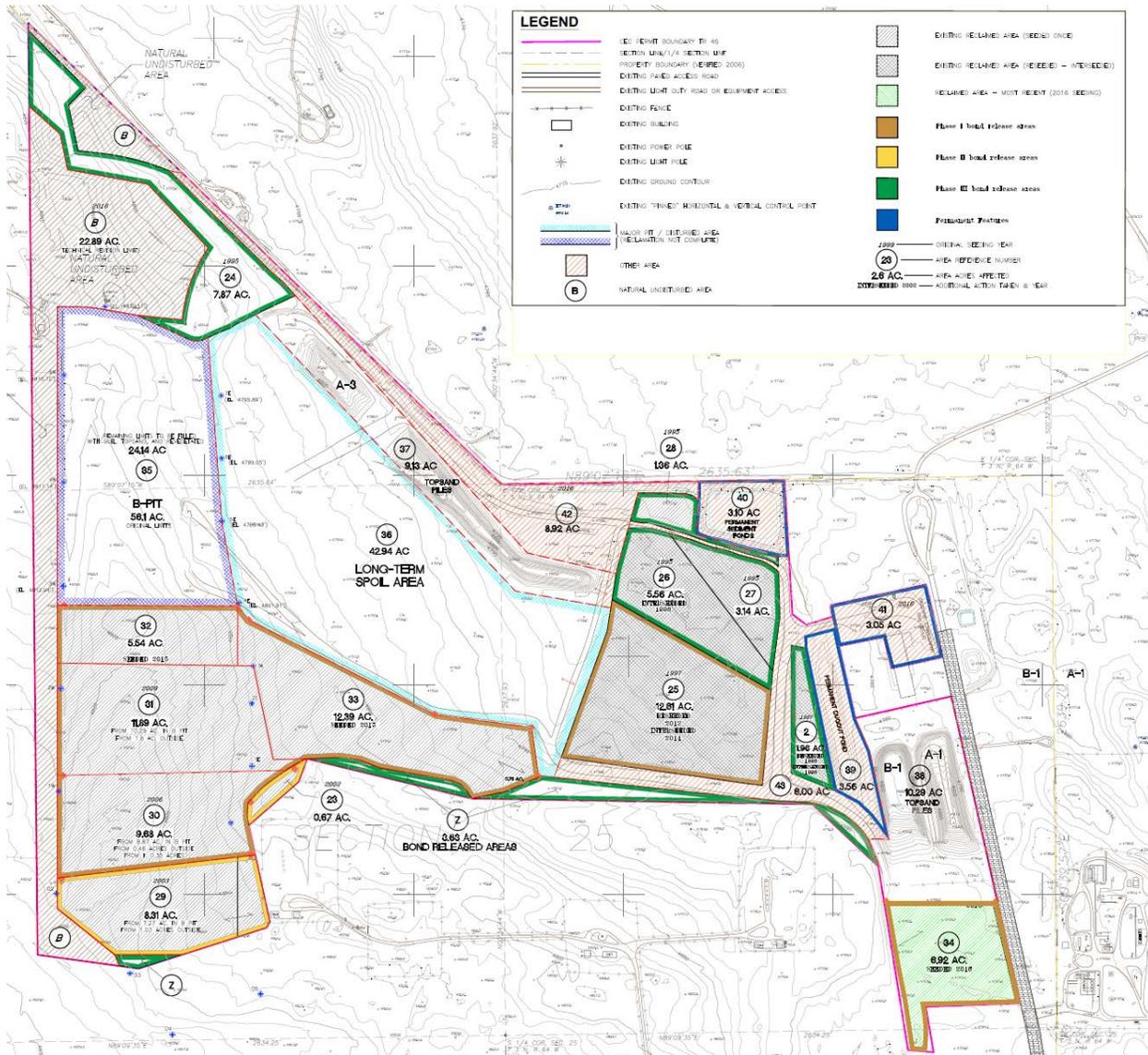
The SL-12 area contains 30.55 acres and includes the four areas listed above, which were seeded in 2002, 2003, 2006 and 2009. Area 23 (seeded in 2002) and Area 29 (2003) were combined into one sample block. Area 30 (seeded in 2006) and Area 31 (2009) were each sampled separately. All three sample areas were observed during the inspection on June 25, 2024. The focus of the inspection was an assessment of on-the-ground conditions of the vegetation in the four areas, and comparisons were made between these conditions and the vegetation data in the report.

Attendees included Brock Bowles, Joel Renfro, and Rob Zuber with the Division and Ben Moline of CEC. The weather was hot and clear. The ground was dry.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 8

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 4

Map of Keenesburg Strip Mine – Areas 23, 29, 30, and 31 in lower left (southwest corner)



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

All three reclaimed areas contained large amounts of standing dead debris from last year's growth with some new growth sprouting as the plants were emerging from dormancy. This observation is consistent with the growth habit of warm season grasses which sprout later in the season and thrive during the warmer summer months into early fall. The species listed in the SL-12 application and those observed during the inspection were warm season species.

Plant identification during this inspection was challenging because plants had to be identified by last year's standing dead material. The DRMS inspectors were able to confirm that many of the plants seen on the ground were the same as the predominant species listed in the data within the vegetation report of the bond release application, namely sand bluestem, prairie sandreed, sand dropseed and redroot amaranth. All these species were seen on the ground in abundance, along with other desirable species such as common sunflower, sand sagebrush, and prairie ground cherry.

Cheatgrass was the only noxious weed species identified in the reclamation area, which is consistent with what was reported in the vegetative cover data.

Based on the observations of the reclaimed area, the Division believes that the vegetation data submitted with the SL-12 bond release request is consistent with the on-the-ground conditions. The vegetation appears to be self-sustaining, based on the presence of emerging young plants, abundance of seed heads on grasses, and flowers on shrubs.

The SL-12 findings document, which shall be written in subsequent weeks, will provide more in-depth analysis of the Division's observations, including comparisons to the vegetation data in the SL-12 application.

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



Area 23 – looking southwest at dormant grass (predominantly sand bluestem)

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Area 29 – emerging warm season grasses



Area 29 – prickly lettuce

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Area 29 –redroot amaranth (pigweed)



Area 29 – prairie ground cherry

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Area 30 – rush skeleton-plant



Area 30 – prairie coneflower

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Area 31 – good grass stand including sand dropseed and prairie sandreed

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