

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

Inspection report

1 message

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

Sen.moline@molsoncoors.com>

Wed, Aug 14, 2024 at 2:16 PM

Hi, Ben -

Here is the report from our inspection last week.

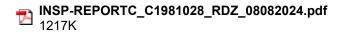
Rob

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



I am working remotely and can be reached by cell at 720.601.2276.

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PERMIT INFORMATION

| Permit Number: C-1981-028 Mine Name: Keenesburg Strip Mine Operator: Coors Energy Company Operator Address: Mr. Ben Moline | County: Weld Operation Type: Surface Permit Status: Permanent Cessation Ownership: Private | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| P.O. Box 4030 | Operator Representative Present: | | | |
| Golden, CO 80402 | operator representative rresent. | | | |
| Golden, CO 80402 | None | | | |
| Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) | | | | |

INSPECTION INFORMATION

| Inspection Start Date: August 6, 2024 Inspection Start Time: 08:30 Inspection End Date: August 6, 2024 Inspection End Time: 10:00 | | Inspection Type: Coal Partial Inspection Inspection Reason: Normal I&E Program Weather: Clear | | |
|---|--|---|---------------------------|----------|
| Joint Inspection Agency: Joint | | nt Inspection Contacts: | | |
| None | | | | |
| Post Inspection Agency: Post | | Post | Post Inspection Contacts: | |
| None | | | | |
| Inspector(s): | Inspector's Signature: Signature Date: | | | |
| Robert Zuber, P.E. | Phot | D | 24 | |
| Brock Bowles | | | | 8/8/2024 |
| | | | | |

Inspection Topic Summary

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

N - Air Resource ProtectionN - Availability of Records

N - Backfill & Grading

N - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

N - ExplosivesN - Fish & WildlifeN - Hydrologic Balance

Y - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Other

N - Processing Waste

N - Roads

N - Reclamation Success

Y - Revegetation

N - Subsidence

N - Slides and Other DamageN - Support Facilities On-site

 $\boldsymbol{N}\,$ - Signs and Markers

N - Support Facilities Not On-siteN - Special Categories Of Mining

N - Topsoil

BACKGROUND ON THE SL-12 APPLICATION

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. The SL-12 area contains 30.55 acres and includes the four areas listed above, which were seeded in 2002, 2003, 2006 and 2009. The areas seeded in 2002 and 2003 (Areas 23 and 29) were combined into one sample block.

The inspection that is the subject of this report was a follow-up inspection to the inspection conducted on June 25, 2024. During the June 25 inspection, cool-season grasses were more prevalent. However, the vegetation sampling provided in the SL-12 application was carried out in August 2021 and 2022, and it showed that warm-season grasses were more dominant in the submitted data set. As a result, the Division decided to conduct another inspection in August to observe any emerging warm-season grasses that might be more prevalent in the data set.

Attendees included Brock Bowles, Joel Renfro, and Rob Zuber with the Division. No CEC representative was present. The weather was warm and clear. The ground was dry.

Number of <u>Partial</u> Inspection this Fiscal Year: 1 Number of <u>Complete</u> Inspections this Fiscal Year: 0

OBSERVATIONS

All of the SL-12 sample areas were observed during the inspection.

Climate conditions on site were hot and dry, and the soil was mostly dry and sandy. This site received significantly lower-than-average monthly precipitation from May through July per precipitation data provided by the Operator. This data was supported by information for Fort Lupton (which is near the site) on the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network (CoCoRaHS) website. These conditions have made for a difficult growing season, evident by the observed slow growth of native vegetation on site and a dearth of annual nuisance weed species.

The warm-season perennial grasses that were dominant in the dataset were more prevalent during this inspection compared to June. The Division noticed new growth around established grass stands, particularly in the northern part of the site seeded in 2009. The emerging vegetation appeared to be most abundant in this area, with many plants growing seed heads. New growth grass species observed included sand bluestem, sand dropseed, and prairie sandreed. Additionally, other desirable species were observed, such as redroot amaranth, common sunflower, and sand sagebrush.

The SL-12 findings document (which will be written in August 2024 or soon thereafter) will provide more detailed analysis of the Division's field observations and comparisons to the vegetation data.

DOCUMENTS RECEIVED - NONE

OTHER (SPECIFY) - NONE

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

No enforcement actions were initiated as a result of this inspection, nor are any pending.

Number of <u>Partial</u> Inspection this Fiscal Year: 1 Number of <u>Complete</u> Inspections this Fiscal Year: 0

PHOTOGRAPHS



Looking south at Area 30 - limited green grass



Looking southwest at Area 31 – more green grass than other areas (as well as sage plant)

Number of <u>Partial</u> Inspection this Fiscal Year: 1 Number of <u>Complete</u> Inspections this Fiscal Year: 0

Common plants seen during the inspection:



Annual ragweed



Number of <u>Partial</u> Inspection this Fiscal Year: 1 Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 0



Prairie sandreed



Little bluestem

Number of <u>Partial</u> Inspection this Fiscal Year: 1 Number of <u>Complete</u> Inspections this Fiscal Year: 0



Sand dropseed



Sand bluestem

Number of <u>Partial</u> Inspection this Fiscal Year: 1 Number of <u>Complete</u> Inspections this Fiscal Year: 0