



STATE OF  
COLORADO

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

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## Inspection report

1 message

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

Wed, Aug 14, 2024 at 2:16 PM

To: "Moline, Ben" <ben.moline@molsoncoors.com>

Hi, Ben -

Here is the report from our inspection last week.

Rob

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



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

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

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**INSP-REPORTC\_C1981028\_RDZ\_08082024.pdf**


1217K



### PERMIT INFORMATION

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

### INSPECTION INFORMATION

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

**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 &amp; Grading

N - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

N - Explosives

N - Fish &amp; Wildlife

N - 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 Damage

N - Support Facilities On-site

N - Signs and Markers

N - Support Facilities Not On-site

N - 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 Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 1Number of Complete 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 Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 1

Number of Complete 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 Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 1

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 0



**Common plants seen during the inspection:**



**Annual ragweed**



**Common sunflower**

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 1

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 0



**Prairie sandreed**



**Little bluestem**

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 1

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 0



**Sand dropseed**



**Sand bluestem**

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 1

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 0