

**STATE OF
COLORADO****Wein - DNR, Clayton <clayton.wein@state.co.us>**

New Horizon Mine, C-1981-008, August Complete Inspection Report

1 message

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

Mon, Sep 9, 2024 at 3:43 PM

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

Good afternoon Tony,

Attached is the Division's report for the complete inspection of the New Horizon Mine on August 26, 2024. Please feel free to contact me if you have any Questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Clayton Wein**Environmental Protection Specialist****COLORADO**
Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety
Department of Natural Resources

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clayton.wein@state.co.us | <https://www.drms.colorado.gov>**New Horizon Mine, C-1981-008, August Complete Inspection Report.pdf**

1057K



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 Sickels
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: August 26, 2024 Inspection Start Time: 13:00 Inspection End Date: August 26, 2024 Inspection End Time: 13:55		Inspection Type: Coal Complete Inspection Inspection Reason: Normal I&E Program Weather: Clear	
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: 9/9/2024

Inspection Topic Summary

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

N - Air Resource Protection

R - 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

Y - Revegetation

N - Subsidence

N - Slides and Other Damage

R - Support Facilities On-site

R - Signs and Markers

N - Support Facilities Not On-site

N - Special Categories Of Mining

R - Topsoil

COMMENTS

This report documents the observations taken by the Division during a complete inspection of the New Horizon Mine, Permit No. C-1981-008. The inspection was conducted on August 26, 2024 by Clayton Wein of the Division. Elk Ridge Mining and Reclamation (ERMR) was represented during the inspection by Mindy Sickels. The weather was partly cloudy with a temperature of 82° F. The ground conditions were mostly dry with some small damp areas with puddles.

AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS – Rule 5.02.4(1):

The records for the New Horizon Mine are located at the mine office in Nucla Colorado. The records were well kept. The quarterly Pond Inspection Reports, 2023 ARR and recently approve bond releases were updated in the records during the inspection. All records were up to date. Please see the Availability of Records Form attached to the end of this report for more details.

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 012 is located in the northern portion of Section 36. Pond 012 was dry during the inspection (Photo 1). The primary outfall was observed to be clear of Debris. The embankment was stable with vegetative cover. No erosional features were identified.

Pond 013 is located within the northwest portion of the permit boundary in Section 36. Pond 013 was impounding water from the inlet pipes during the inspection. The pipe inlets discharge irrigation runoff and the water from a spoil spring. The water level in the pond was at the primary discharge outlet (Photo 2). The primary outlet was clear of blockages and discharge was occurring. The embankment for the pond was vegetated and stable. There

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were no erosional features identified. Approximately a month before the inspection, the operator had tamarisk removed from the area surrounding Pond 013.

Pond 015 is located within the southwest portion of the permit boundary in Section 36. Pond 015 was also dry at the time of the inspection (Photo 3). The outlet for the pond was clear. The embankment was stable and no new erosion was observed. Small rills have been documented during previous Division inspections on the pond's embankments. The rills have not enlarged and did not appear to affect the embankment's stability.

Pond 016 is located within the southern portion of the permit boundary in Section 36. Pond 016 was observed to be dry (Photo 4). The embankment was stable and covered with vegetation. The primary discharge outlet was clear of debris. There were no indications of erosional features.

Pond 018 is located within the southern portion of the permit boundary in Section 6. Pond 018 was observed to be dry (Photo 5). The embankment was vegetated and stable. There were no erosional concerns identified. The pond's outlet was unobstructed.

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 traverses from the southern portion of the permit area in section 36 to Pond 013. The access road was stable with no ruts or erosional features noted. The culverts underneath the road were observed to be clear and dry.

RECLAMATION SUCCESS - Rule 4.15, Rule 3:

Irrigated Cropland (IC-1 is located in the northeast portion of Section 1 (Photo 6). The field was covered with what looked to be a hay crop. There were no indications of differential settling observed. No erosional concerns were identified.

Dryland Pastures (DP-10, DP-11, DP-13, DP-14, DP-15, DP-18, DP-20 (Photo 7) and DP-21 are located in Section 36. DP-10 through DP-15 were stable with vegetative cover. There were no indications of erosion or differential settling. DP-18, DP-20 and DP-21 were reclaimed and seeded in 2023. The reclaimed areas were stable with vegetative cover. No signs of differential settling were observed. There were no erosional concerns identified.

Irrigated Pastures, IP-8, IP-9 and IP-10, are located within the southeastern portion of Section 36. The irrigated pastures were stable with vegetative cover. No erosional features were observed. There were no indications of Differential settling.

Prime Farmland, PF-1, is located within Section 36. The area was reclaimed and seeded in the fall of 2023. The reclamation was vegetated and stable. There were no erosional features noted. No indications of differential settling were seen.

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Irrigated Pasture IP-6 is located in the northern portion of Section 6. The reclamation and seeding was completed in 2016. The reclamation had no indications of erosion or differential settling. The site was stable with no erosional features.

Dryland Pastures DP-16, DP-17 and DP-19 are located in Section 6 to the south and southwest of the mine office. The dryland pastures were vegetated and stable. No indications of erosion or differential settling were observed.

SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

The mine office and shop are located in the northeastern portion of Section 6. The pad for the facilities was stable with no erosional features. There was no loose trash observed. No fuels were stored on site.

SIGNS AND MARKERS – Rule 4.02:

Several Mine identification and permit boundary signs were observed posted throughout the inspection of the mine. The Mine Identification signs were posted in locations with unobstructed viewsheds. The signs were legible and contained the permit number, Permittee and Contact info for the Division.

Stream Buffer Zone Markers were observed to be intact and posted in locations that were easy to spot (Photo 8).

Topsoil pile markers were observed to be posted for all topsoil piles. The signs were in good condition and posted in locations that were easy to see.

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 Piles 11A and 11B (Photo 9) are located in the southern part of the permit boundary in Section 1. The piles were observed to be stable with no erosion. There was no indication of the loss of topsoil resource.

Topsoil Piles 14 and 15 are located adjacent to Pond 016. The topsoil piles were vegetated and stable. There was no loss of topsoil resource identified.

Topsoil Piles C, D, and H are located in Section 6 south of the mine office. The stockpiles were stable with vegetative cover. There were no erosional features observed. No loss of topsoil resource had occurred.

DOCUMENTS RECEIVED: None

OTHER (SPECIFY): None

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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 012.



Photo2: Pond 013



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Photo 3: Pond 015.



Photo 4: Pond 016.



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Photo 5: Pond 018.



Photo 6: DP-20 and DP-21.



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Photo 7: IC-1.



Photo 8: Stream Buffer Zone Marker adjacent to Pond 013.



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Photo 9: Topsoil Pile 11B.



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AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS**PERMIT RECORDS**

DRMS Permit	RN-8
Permit Application w/Revisions	Ok
Findings Document	RN-8/SL-28
Insurance Certificate	Exp. Aug.2025
Bond Document	RN-8
Phased Bond Release	SL-28
Documents/Findings	
Air Emission Permits	Ok
County Special Use Permits	Ok
UG Mining Landowner Notification	NA
Subsidence Monitoring Reports	NA
Subsidence Monitoring Data	NA
Rill & Gully Survey	NA
Vegetation Monitoring Data	2023 ARR/SL-25
Specific Variance Approvals	NA
Annual Reclamation Reports	2023
Midterm Review Documents	MT-7
DRMS/OSM Inspection Reports/Enforcement Actions (3 Years)	Up through 2 nd Q. 2024
Transfers/Succession of Operator	Ok 2016
Temporary Cessation Notification	NA
Reclamation Cost Estimate	RN-8
CERTIFICATIONS	
Pond Certifications	OK
Annual Certifications for Impoundments	2023
Fill Certifications for Excess Spoil or Underground Development Waste	NA
• Quarterly Inspections	NA
• Compaction Testing	NA
• Final Certification	NA
Coal Processing Waste Banks	NA
Haul Road Certifications	Ok
Access Road Certifications	NA

HYDROLOGIC RECORDS

NPDES Permit	*2021
NPDES Records	2 nd Q. 2023
Stormwater Management Plan	Ok 2019
SPCC Plan	NA
MSHA Pond Inspections	NA
	NA
State Engineer's Pond Inspection	
Quarterly Pond Inspections	2 nd Q. 2024
Annual Hydrology Reports	2023
• Ground Water Monitoring	Ok
• Surface Water Monitoring	OK
• Spring & Seep Monitoring	OK
• Mine Water Discharge Monitoring	Ok
• Mine Inflow Study	NA
• Water Consumption Records	OK
Well Permits	OK

BLASTING RECORDS

Blasting Publication	NA
Blasting Records (3 years)	OK
ATFE Explosives Permit	NA
Blasting Variances	NA
Pre-Blast Surveys	OK

ADDITIONAL RECORDS (specify)

COMMENTS: * ERMR has applied for CDPS permit (3/9/2021)

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