



STATE OF
COLORADO

Simmons - DNR, Leigh <leigh.simmons@state.co.us>

C1980007, West Elk Mine, August Inspection Report

1 message

Simmons - DNR, Leigh <leigh.simmons@state.co.us>
To: "Wilczek, Jessica" <jwilczek@archrsc.com>

Tue, Sep 10, 2024 at 5:44 PM

Attached

Leigh Simmons
Environmental Protection Specialist



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

P [720.220.1180](tel:720.220.1180)

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203

leigh.simmons@state.co.us | <https://drms.colorado.gov>




INSP-REPORTC_C1980007_LDS_09102024052704.pdf
4737K



PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1980-007 Mine Name: West Elk Mine Operator: Mountain Coal Company, LLC Operator Address: Jessica Wilczek 5174 Highway 133 Somerset, CO 81434	County: Delta, Gunnison Operation Type: Underground Permit Status: Active Ownership: Private
	Operator Representative Present: Chase Hiatt
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) 	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: August 28, 2024 Inspection Start Time: 10:30 Inspection End Date: Inspection End Time:	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): Leigh Simmons	Inspector's Signature:  Signature Date: September 10, 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

R - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Other

R - Processing Waste

R - Roads

N - Reclamation Success

N - Revegetation

N - Subsidence

N - Slides and Other Damage

R - Support Facilities On-site

N - Signs and Markers

N - Support Facilities Not On-site

N - Special Categories Of Mining

N - Topsoil

COMMENTS

This was a partial inspection by Leigh Simmons of the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division). The weather was clear, warm and dry. The mine was active. The inspection was accompanied by Chase Hiatt of Mountain Coal Company (MCC).

Jessica Wilczek of MCC relayed the tragic news that a fatal accident had occurred since the last inspection. The accident had been investigated by MSHA.

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:

Work had begun to clean the MB3 pond, but had been suspended following recent heavy rain.

GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE:

Longwall mining of the LWE12 panel was complete and a longwall move to the LWE16 panel was in progress.

Development of the B Northeast Mains and the B26 and B27 headgates was in progress.

Pillaring of the Sunset Mains South was complete. Pillaring of the Sunset Mains was in progress at around crosscut 25.

PROCESSING WASTE/COAL MINE WASTE PILES – Rule 4.10 and 4.11

Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization; Placement:

Refuse was being generated at the time of the inspection. New refuse continued to be temporarily stockpiled on the RPE but was being transported to the RPEE. The work to spread, dry and compact material that had been transported before the winter was almost complete.

MCC plan to stop hauling refuse to the RPEE by the end of September. The goal is to clear the RPE of the temporary stockpile, so that there is space for more waste to be stored over the winter.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 2

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 0

Topsoil stripped from the eastern edge of the pile was being transported to the front of the pile, ready to reclaim the graded outcrops.

Coal fines continued to be blended back in to coal for shipment, as possible. Approximately 123,000 tons of fines remained stockpiled at ST-3 on the run-of-mine stockpile pad, 5,000 tons were stockpiled at ST-5 on the clean coal pad, and a further 20,000 tons were stockpiled on the top of the LRP behind the wash plant.

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):

An armored crossing had been installed at the first hairpin on the RPEE haul road where it crosses the pile.

SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

At the Deer Creek vent shaft, the raised bore shaft had been completed and the rig had been demobilized from the site. Work was underway to prepare for construction of the shaft liner.

Work on the Box Canyon North project well had been halted pending a permit for the well.

DOCUMENTS RECEIVED

N/A

OTHER (SPECIFY)

N/A

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

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

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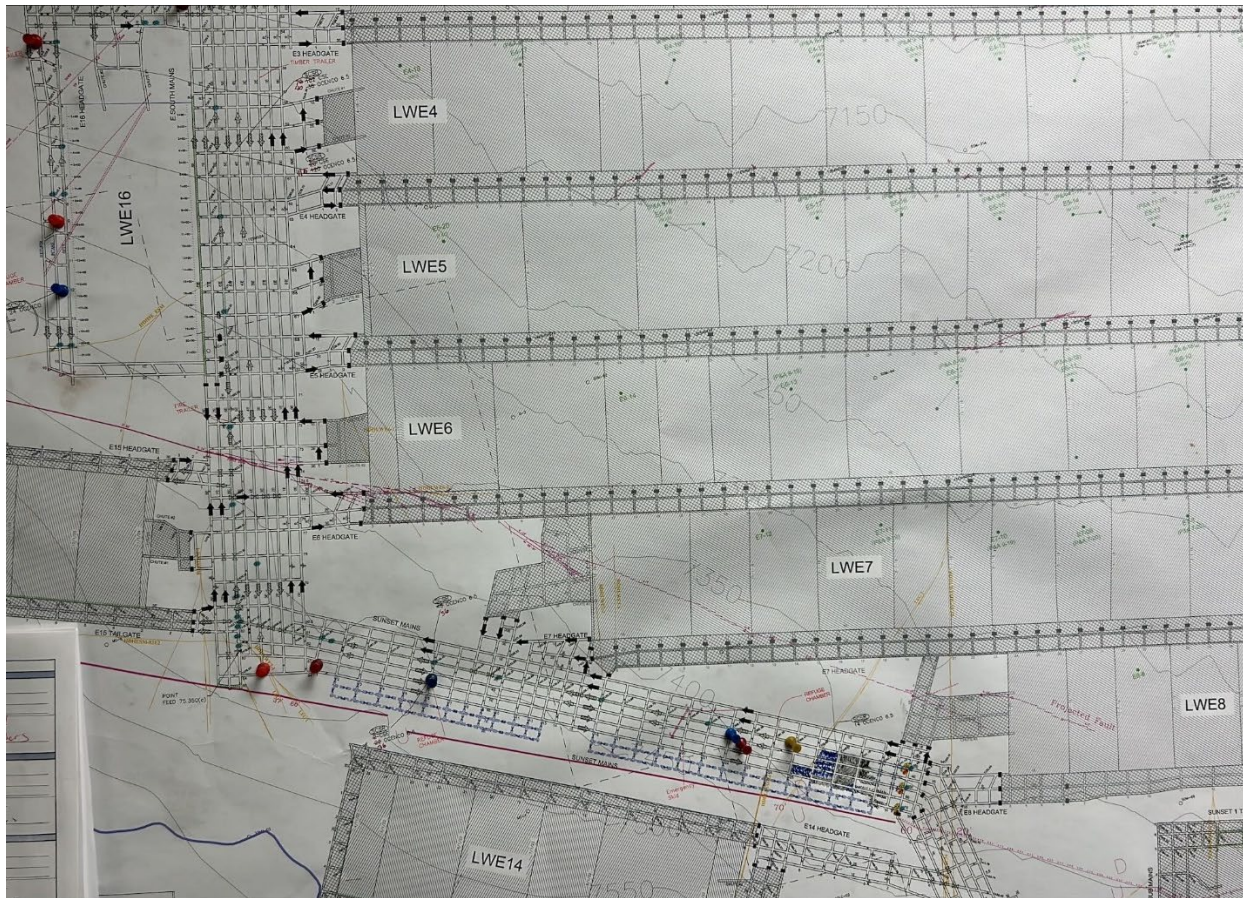
PHOTOGRAPHS

Figure 1: Mine plan map showing progress of pillaring in Sunset Mains

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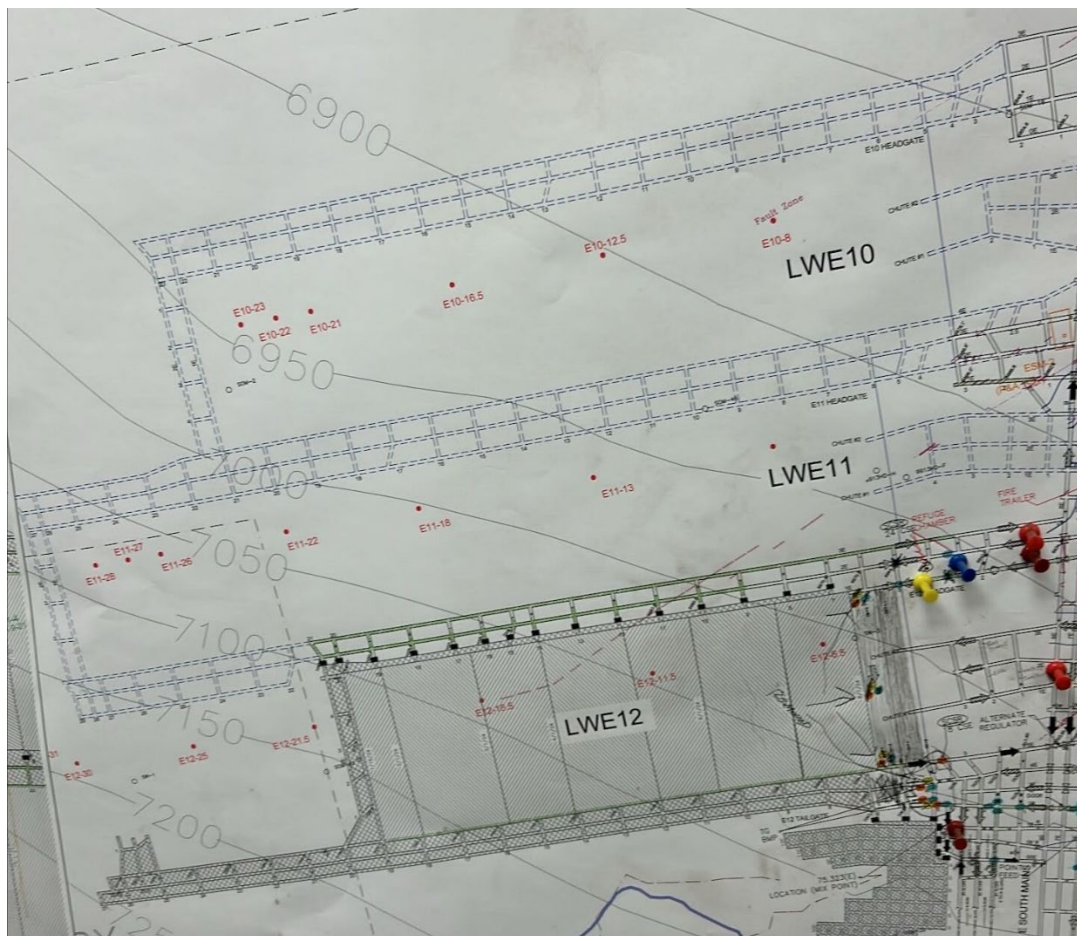


Figure 2: Mine plan map showing completion of LWE12 panel

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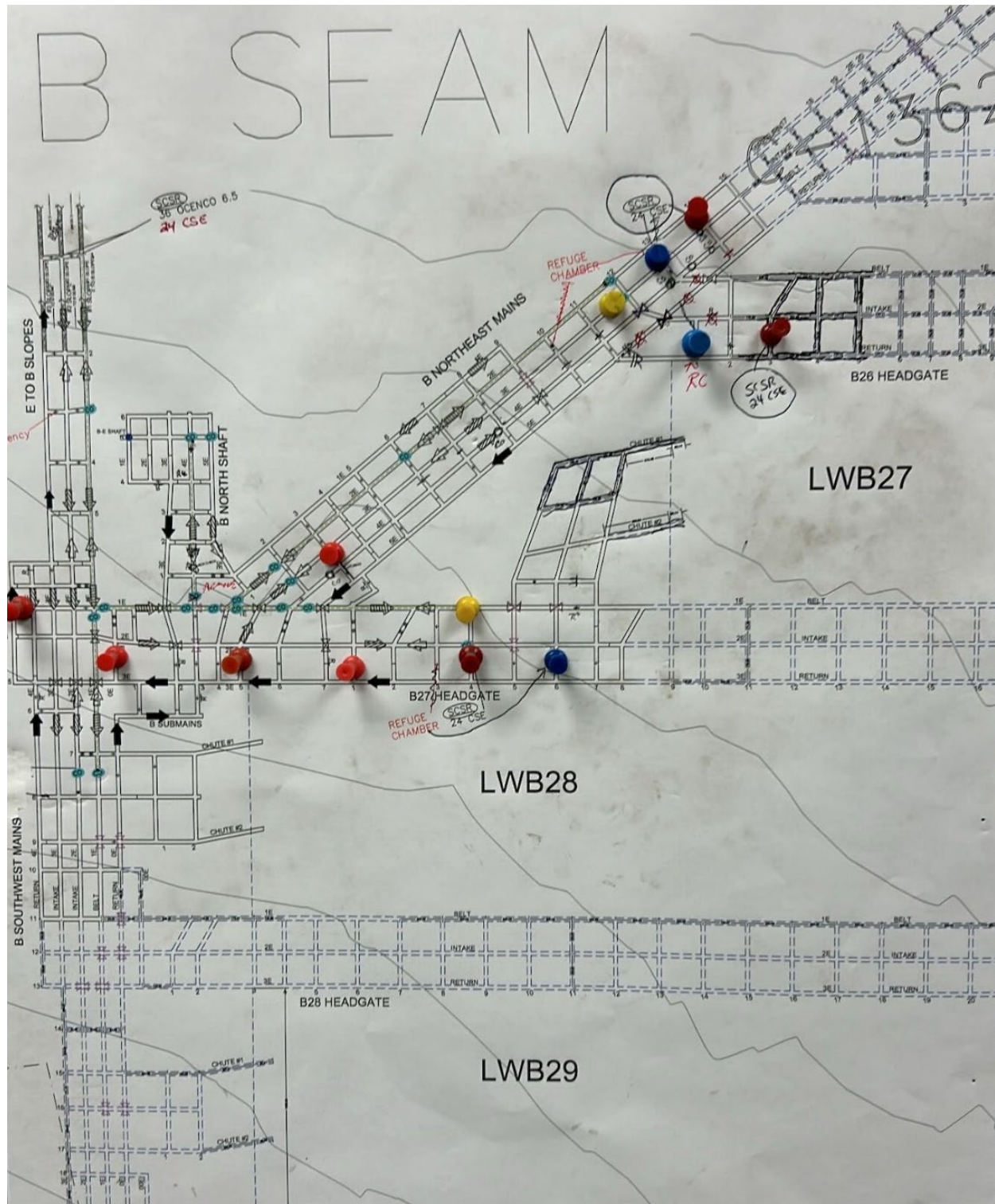


Figure 3: Mine plan map showing B-Seam development progress

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Figure 4: Waste being transported to RPEE



Figure 5: Compaction in progress on RPEE

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Figure 6: Topsoil stripped from eastern edge of RPEE



Figure 7: Topsoil transported to graded outslope, ready for reclamation

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Figure 8: Armored crossing on RPEE haul road



Figure 9: Temporary waste pile on RPE

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Figure 10: RPE pond



Figure 11: MB3 pond, partially cleaned

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