



STATE OF  
COLORADO

Reilley - DNR, Robin <robin.reilley@state.co.us>

## Inspections: 2024 September Partial

1 message

**Reilley - DNR, Robin** <robin.reilley@state.co.us>

Tue, Sep 24, 2024 at 11:55 AM

To: "Kawcak, Miranda" <MKawcak@peabodyenergy.com>, "Howard, Michael" <MHoward@peabodyenergy.com>, Robin Reilley - DNR <robin.reilley@state.co.us>

Good Morning Ms. Kawcak,

Please find DRMS's 2024 September inspection reports for the Williams Fork, Yoast and Seneca IIW sites. These were partial inspections.

Thank you

Robin Reilley, M.S. GISP  
Environmental Protection Specialist II



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

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### 3 attachments



**Ins\_Partial\_Yoast\_2024\_09Sept.pdf**  
2363K



**Ins\_Partial\_Seneca\_\_2024\_09Sept.pdf**  
1250K



**Insp\_Partial\_WilliamsFork\_2024\_09Sept.pdf**  
3075K



**COLORADO**  
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**23 September 2024**

PERMIT INFORMATION

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Permit Number:</b> C-1981-044<br><b>Mine Name:</b> Williams Fork Mines<br><b>Operator:</b> Moffat County Mining, LLC<br><br><b>Operator Address:</b><br>Ms. Miranda Kawcak<br>29515 Routt County Road #27<br>Oak Creek, CO 80467 | <b>County:</b> Moffat<br><b>Operation Type:</b> Underground<br><b>Permit Status:</b> Active<br><b>Ownership:</b> Private<br><br>Michael Howard |
| This report was issued electronically from the Divisions' Denver Office.  |  |

INSPECTION INFORMATION

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Inspection Start Date:</b> 23 September 2024<br><b>Inspection Start Time:</b> 13:00 p.m.<br><b>Inspection End Date:</b> 23 September 2024<br><b>Inspection End Time:</b> 14:00 p.m. | <b>Inspection Type:</b> Partial Inspection<br><b>Inspection Reason:</b> Normal I&E Program<br><b>Weather:</b> Clear   |
| <b>Joint Inspection Agency:</b><br><br>None  | <b>Joint Inspection Contacts:</b><br><br>No   |
| <b>Post Inspection Agency:</b><br><br>None   | <b>Post Inspection Contacts:</b><br><br>No  |
| <b>Inspector(s):</b><br><br>Robin Reilley, M.S. GISP   | <b>Inspector's Signature:</b>  <b>Signature Date:</b> 24 September 2024 |

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 2

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1

| Inspection Topic Summary  |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| NOTE: Y=Inspected N=Not Inspected R=Comments Noted V=Violation Issued NA=Not Applicable |                                     |
| R - Air Resource Protection   | R - Roads                           |
| N - Availability of Records   | R - Reclamation Success             |
| R - Backfill & Grading  | R - Revegetation                    |
| NA - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste  | Y - Subsidence                      |
| NA - Explosives   | Y - Slides and Other Damage         |
| R - Fish & Wildlife   | Y - Support Facilities On-site      |
| R - Hydrologic Balance  | R - Signs and Markers               |
| R - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan  | NA - Support Facilities Not On-site |
| NA - Other  | NA - Special Categories Of Mining   |
| NA - Processing Waste   | R - Topsoil                         |

### COMMENTS

This was Partial inspection of the Williams Fork Mine; permit C1981044, operated by Moffat County Mining LLC. The inspection was conducted, and the report prepared by me, Robin Reilley of the DRMS. Michael Howard, mine representative was present throughout the inspection. No hydrologic or air quality issues were detected over the course of the inspection. Infrastructure for an irrigation system for the cropland area was present and awaiting assembly. High clouds were present, with a slight breeze and temperatures around 70 degrees Fahrenheit.

Photo one refuse, pile looking north, diverse, vegetation, shrubs, and grasses. South slope, north slope is more weedy

### ***INSPECTION***

#### ***GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE:***

#### ***SIGNS and MARKERS – Rule 4.02***

- Pond identification signs were prominently displayed in the vicinity of the ponds and were in adequate repair at the time of inspection.
- Topsoil stockpiles observed were clearly marked with identifying stake.
- Stream buffer zone along the Williams Fork River in the cropland area is marked.
- Permit boundary markers were in place and visible, appearing in adequate numbers marking the boundary.

#### ***ROADS – Rule 4.03***

*Construction 4.03.1(3) I 4.03.2(3); Drainage 4.03.1(4) I 4.03.2(4); Surfacing and Maintenance 4.03.1(5) and (6) I 4.03.2(5) and (6); Reclamation 4.03.1(7) I 4.03.2(7)*

- Main haul roads were dry and in good repair.
- Ditches throughout the site and along haul roads appeared to be functioning adequately. All ditches were dry at the time of inspection.

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*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; Drainage- Acid and Toxic Materials 4.05.8; Impoundments 4.05.6, 4.05.9; Stream Buffer Zones 4.05.18*

Pond banks appeared stable and vegetated. Dams appeared stable and vegetated with no signs of seepage. All ponds were dry at the time of inspection.

- Slopes to Pond 5A-P1 were well vegetated with yellow sweet clover, for the most part obscuring any gullies and rills.
- Ditches throughout the site, along haul roads and in the cropland area appeared to be functioning adequately.
- All ponds were dry at the time of inspection.

*TOPSOIL – RULE 4.06*

*Removal 4.06.2; Substitute Materials 4.06.4(4); Storage and Protection 4.06.3; Redistribution 4.06.4*

- No instability or riling were noted on the observed topsoil piles. Topsoil piles are vegetated, displaying adequate cover.
- Topsoil piles exist at the ponds for future pond reclamation.
- Topsoil piles are marked with a t-stake.

*COAL MINE WASTE BANKS– RULE 4.10*

*General Requirement 4.10.1; Site Inspection 4.10.2; Water Control Measures 4.10.3; Construction Requirements 4.10.4*

- Refuse pile was reclaimed, in 2020 and is capped, topsoiled and seeded.
- The refuse pile appears stable with no significant rills or gullies forming.
- The refuse pile tends to be weedier at the north end than at the south end.
- The south end of the refuse pile exhibits various species of grasses and some shrubs. The grasses appeared dormant at the time of inspection.

*SLIDES and OTHER DAMAGE- Rule 4.12*

- No recent slides, slumps, cracking, subsidence or other damage was observed over the course of the inspection.

*BACKFILL and GRADING – RULE 4.14*

- Reclamation of the 5A Portal area is complete.
- Backfilling, grading, topsoil and seeding occurred in 2023 at the 5A Portal.

*REVEGETATION - Rule 4.15*

*General Requirements 4.15.1; Use of Species 4.15.2, Grazing 4.15.5*

- Revegetated areas of reclamation appeared stable at the time of inspection.
- 5A Portal area exhibits grasses, and a dense stand of yellow sweet clover obscuring the small sage shrubs.
- The portal was treated with three different soil amendment scenarios, up until now any difference in the scenarios was difficult to detect. At this point there may be some indication that the south most treatment yielded a slightly more beneficial result as cover appears denser than the other two sections to the north.
- Vegetation throughout the site appeared dormant at the time of inspection.
- Croplands exhibited dormant vegetation with the exception of some alfalfa with dry hay stubble throughout having been harvested in early August.
- Vegetation appeared sparse and patchy in some areas at the south end of the hay field.

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- No significant weeds were noted at the time of inspection.

*FISH and WILDLIFE– RULE 4.18*

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- Wildlife sightings included red and white tailed hawks, ravens, and antelope.

*INSPECTION, ENFORCEMENT and CIVIL PENALTIES – RULE 5*

*Inspections 5.02; Availability of Records*

- As this was a partial inspection, records were not checked.

*DOCUMENTS RECEIVED*

*None*

*ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE*

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

*PHOTOGRAPHS*



**Photo 1:** South end of the refuse pile exhibiting various dormant grasses and some artemisia shrubs, looking west.

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***Photo 2.*** Slope at the south end of the 5A portal, looking east at dormant vegetation predominated by yellow sweet clover.



***Photo 3.*** Slopes at the north end of the 5A portal, looking northeast at dormant vegetation.

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**Photo 4:** Overview of the northern section of the cropland area adjacent to the Williams Fork River, looking north west from the 5A portal.



**Photo 5:** Overview of the central section of the cropland area adjacent to the Williams Fork River, looking north west from the 5A portal.

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**Photo 6:** *Irrigation infrastructure ready for assembly in the cropland area adjacent to the Williams Fork River, looking north.*



**Photo 7:** *Area of sparse vegetation, comprised of alfalfa at the south end of the cropland area.*

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***Photo 8:*** Backfilled Vegetation comprised of various wheat grasses and some weeds in the cropland area.

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