



STATE OF
COLORADO

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

Bowie #2 inspection report

1 message

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Thu, Oct 24, 2024 at 4:24 PM

To: Basil Bear <basilbear@wolverinefuels.com>, Tamme Bishop <tammekb@gmail.com>, Ryan Wilson <RWilson@wolverinefuels.com>

Hello, All.

Please see the attached report.

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.

Physical Address:

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215
Denver, CO 80203

Mailing Address:

Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, Room 215
1001 East 62nd Avenue
Denver, CO 80216

rob.zuber@state.co.us | <http://drms.colorado.gov>




INSP-REPORTC_C1996083_RDZ_10242024.pdf
2428K



PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1996-083 Mine Name: Bowie No. 2 Mine Operator: Bowie Resources, LLC Operator Address: Mr. Basil Bear P.O. Box 1488 Paonia, CO 81428	County: Delta Operation Type: Underground Permit Status: Active Ownership: Private
	Operator Representative Present: Basil Bear, Art Etter
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) 	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: October 22, 2024 Inspection Start Time: 09:00 Inspection End Date: October 22, 2024 Inspection End Time: 11:50		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): Robert Zuber, P.E.	Inspector's Signature: 		Signature Date: 10/24/2024

Inspection Topic Summary

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

Y - Air Resource Protection

N - Availability of Records

Y - Backfill & Grading

NA - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

NA - Explosives

N - Fish & Wildlife

R - Hydrologic Balance

Y - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Other

R - Processing Waste

R - Roads

Y - Reclamation Success

N - Revegetation

N - Subsidence

R - Slides and Other Damage

R - Support Facilities On-site

Y - Signs and Markers

N - Support Facilities Not On-site

Y - Special Categories Of Mining

R - Topsoil

COMMENTS

A partial inspection was conducted by Rob Zuber of DRMS on October 22, 2024. The weather was clear and warm. The ground was dry.

Before the inspection, a meeting was held in the Engineering Office with Basil Bear and Art Etter (Wolverine Fuels) and Seth Tribble (Tribble and Sons). The following was discussed:

- BRL will be requesting an informal conference regarding the required bond for this site, which was recalculated with the recent midterm review (MT-06).
- BRL plans to clean Pond F this fall.
- BRL is done hauling material to Gob Pile #2, and they need to check soil depths.
- BRL has cut ditches on the upper portion of the pile, which has no coverfill.
- The surveyor (Steve Craigg) has finished his survey of Gob Pile #3.
- Construction of the ditch east of Gob Pile #3 has been completed, except for a small segment where a truck crossing is being used to haul soil. A culvert has been placed at that location.
- BRL is deciding if they will use drill seeding or another method on Gob Pile #3. Rob suggested that they talk to DRMS vegetation experts about this.

For part of the inspection of Gob Pile #3 (west side), Rob was joined by Basil Bear and Art Etter. At the east end of this pile, he was joined by two contractors, Seth Tribble and Jake Tribble.

The primary activities onsite:

- Tribble and Sons was hauling topsoil to upper part of Gob Pile #3.
- BRL was continuing to reclaim the upper slope on Gob Pile #2 by spreading the coverfill material.

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Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1

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:

The following dimensions were estimated by DRMS for the newly constructed ditch east of Gob Pile #3 (Ditch D-J11 on PAP maps):

- Top width of 10 feet
- Bottom width of 3 feet
- Depth of 4 feet
- D50 (average diameter) riprap of 12 to 18 inches
- Side slopes of 2:1

Other observations regarding this structure included the following. The slope is relatively flat, likely in the range of 5 to 10 percent. There is a good gradation of rock, with many smaller rocks “chinked in” to the large rocks. The culvert below it (C-J4) is a 30-inch diameter CMP (corrugated metal), which carries flows from D-J11 to the large ditch below, D-J3.

These observations indicate that the ditch matches the specifications in Appendix B of Volume XI in the PAP (Permit Application Package).

Pond F was inspected. It contained a very small amount of water and was not close to discharging. No problems were identified with the embankment, spillways, inlet channels, or other features of the pond.

The eastern portion of the large diversion ditch above Gob Pile #2 was inspected. It appears that a portion of this ditch, just east of the large bend, requires some sediment removal. Below this, Ditch D-F4 is in good shape.

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

Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization; Placement:

Gob Piles 1, 2, 3, and 4 appeared stable.

Grading of coverfill on Gob Pile #2 is still in progress on the upper slope. No erosion was identified. BRL staff was using a backhoe to check soil depths. No ponded water was seen on the upper (relatively flat) portion of Gob Pile #2. The sediment control structures where the upper portion of the pile drains to a riprap ditch have been removed. The Division recommends that new BMPs be constructed or installed in this area to reduce the sediment load to Pond F. BRL has dug small ditches on the upper portion of this pile, and these look well-constructed and will likely function for several months.

Tribble and Sons was hauling topsoil to the upper portion of Gob Pile #3. Seth Tribble indicated that this project

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will require 26,300 cubic yards; this appears accurate per a DRMS calculation. Mr. Tribble also indicated that the pile east of Gob Pile #3 contains 55,000 cubic yards, which also appears reasonable per a DRMS calculation.

The slope at the southwest corner of Gob Pile #3 was checked with a laser rangefinder, and the slope is 14 degrees. The pile was checked about 50 to 100 feet east of the corner, and the slope is 15 degrees.

Water was not seen in the ditch below Gob Pile #3, but Basil Bear indicated that water was flowing through the underdrain. Apparently, the flow was small, and the water infiltrated before flowing to the east side of Gob Pile #3.

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 road to the portals was in adequate condition. The slopes adjacent to this road are generally stable, except for the slide at Curve 10 (see Slides and Other Damage section).

SLIDES and DAMAGE - Rule 4.12:

No problems were seen on the slopes above and below the benches. The slides above the B Portal Bench and Curve 11 (noted in the past) look stable. The slide above Curve Number 10 appears to have not moved in recent months. This is an ongoing project for BRL.

SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

The following areas appeared stable with no signs of erosion:

- Utility Bench
- D Portal Bench
- The B Portal Bench
- Material storage area beside Topsoil Stockpile A
- Conveyor corridors
- Slopes above and below the Coal Stockpile Pad
- The area around the office
- The Preparation Plant and nearby water tank
- Pump House and Filter Building
- Old power plant
- Storage area west of Pond D

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TOPSOIL – Rule 4.06

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

Inactive topsoil stockpiles appeared to be stable.

The contractor (Tribble and Sons) was hauling topsoil from the large pile east of Gob Pile #3. This pile has a very steep side where material is being accessed, and BRL should consider measures (e.g., a berm or temporary wattles) to prevent loss of this resource during large precipitation events.

DOCUMENTS RECEIVED - none

OTHER (SPECIFY) - none

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

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

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PHOTOGRAPHS



East side of Gob Pile #3 with topsoil piles staged around the perimeter of the top



Loading of topsoil for hauling to Gob Pile #3

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Newly constructed ditch by Gob Pile #3 (D-J11)



Lower portion of Gob Pile #3

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Lower portions of Gob Piles 1, 2, and 4



Diversion ditch above Gob Pile #2, in need of cleaning

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Ditches on upper level of Gob Pile #2



Spreading of coverfill material on slope of Gob Pile #2

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Pond F and equipment on soil piles



Slide at Curve 10

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