



STATE OF  
COLORADO

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

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## New Horizon 2 Mine, C-1981-008, December Complete Inspection Report

1 message

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

Wed, Dec 18, 2024 at 3:41 PM

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

Cc: Lucas West - DNR <lucas.west@state.co.us>

Good afternoon Tony,

Attached is the Division's report for the complete inspection conducted on December 5, 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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**New Horizon Mine, C-1981-008, December Complete Inspection Report.pdf**

909K



**PERMIT INFORMATION**

<b>Permit Number:</b> C-1981-008 <b>Mine Name:</b> New Horizon Mine <b>Operator:</b> Elk Ridge Mining and Reclamation, LLC <b>Operator Address:</b> Mr. Tony Tennyson P.O. Box 628 27646 West 5th Avenue Nucla, CO 81424	<b>County:</b> Montrose <b>Operation Type:</b> Surface <b>Permit Status:</b> Active <b>Ownership:</b> Private
	<b>Operator Representative Present:</b>  Mindy Sickles
<b>Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)</b>  	

**INSPECTION INFORMATION**

<b>Inspection Start Date:</b> December 5, 2024 <b>Inspection Start Time:</b> 15:00 <b>Inspection End Date:</b> December 5, 2024 <b>Inspection End Time:</b> 14:10		<b>Inspection Type:</b> Coal Complete Inspection <b>Inspection Reason:</b> Normal I&E Program <b>Weather:</b> Cloudy	
<b>Joint Inspection Agency:</b>  None		<b>Joint Inspection Contacts:</b>  None	
<b>Post Inspection Agency:</b>  None		<b>Post Inspection Contacts:</b>  None	
<b>Inspector(s):</b>  Clayton Wein	<b>Inspector's Signature:</b>  <i>Clayton Wein</i>		<b>Signature Date:</b> 12/18/2024

**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 &amp; Grading

N - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

N - Explosives

R - Fish &amp; 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 December 5, 2024 by Clayton Wein. Elk Ridge Mining and Reclamation (ERM) was represented during the inspection by Mindy Sickles. The weather was partly cloudy with a temperature of 48° F. The ground conditions were mostly dry with a few small muddy spots.

**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 and up to date. Please see the attached Availability of Records Form at the end of this report for more details.

**FISH and WILDLIFE – Rule 4.18:**

During the inspection a group of deer was seen on Dryland Pastures DP-20 and DP-21 (Photo 1). There were approximately 10 to 12 deer in the group. Several other sets of deer tracks were seen throughout the inspection of the mine site.

**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 12 is located north of Dryland Pasture DP-12. The pond was dry during the inspection (Photo 2). The pond's embankment was stable with vegetative cover. The discharge outlet was clear of debris. There were no indications of erosional features observed.

Pond 013 is located north of Dryland Pasture DP-21. Pond 013 was impounding water during the inspection (Photo 3). The water was at the level of the discharge outlet. There were no blockages on the outlet observed. The embankment was vegetated and stable. No erosional features were identified.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 3

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2

Pond 015 is located to the south of the southwestern corner of DP-21. Pond 015 was dry (Photo 4). There were no blockages observed in the pond's outlet. The embankment for the pond was stable with vegetation. There were no new erosional features identified. Minor rills on the interior of the pond's embankment have been noted in previous Division inspections. The rills had not enlarged in size.

Pond 016 is located south of the southeastern corner of DP-21. The pond was dry at the time of the inspection. The ponds outlet was clear of debris. The embankment for 016 was covered with vegetation and stable. There were no indications of erosion.

Pond 018 is located to the south of the mine office and facilities pad. Pond 018 was also dry during the inspection (Photo 5). The outlet for the pond was observed to be clear of debris. The embankment had no indications of erosion or instability. The embankment was well vegetated.

#### 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 bisects the northwestern portion of the permit area. The access road was dry and stable during the inspection. There were no erosional features observed. The culverts underneath the road were clear of blockages and able to function as designed.

#### RECLAMATION SUCCESS - Rule 4.15, Rule 3:

One section of Prime Farmland, PF-1, is located within Section 36. PF-1 was reclaimed and seeded in the fall of 2023. The reclamation was observed to be stable with vegetative cover. There were no erosional features identified and there were no indications of differential settling were observed.

A total of 9 Dryland Pasture parcels (DP-10, DP-11, DP-13, DP-14, DP-15, DP-18, DP-20 (Photo 6) and DP-21 (Photo 7) are located in Section 36. DP-10, DP-11, DP-12, DP-13, DP-14 and DP-15 were stable with vegetative cover. There were no observed signs of erosion or differential settling. DP-18, DP-20 and DP-21 were reclaimed and seeded in 2023. All three of the reclaimed parcels were stable and had vegetative cover. There were no sections observed with differential settling or erosion.

There are 4 Irrigated Pastures, IP-8, IP-9 and IP-11 and IP-12 are located within the southeastern portion of Section 36. The irrigated pastures were stable with vegetative cover. No erosional features were observed. There was no Differential settling observed.

Irrigated Pasture IP-10 is located to the East of 2700 Road and on the south side of BB Road. The irrigated pasture was stable with no indications of differential settling. The pasture was covered with vegetation.

One parcel of Irrigated Cropland (IC-1) is located in the northeast portion of Section 1. The field was vegetation during the inspection (Photo 8). No indications of differential settling observed. There were no erosional concerns identified.

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**SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:**

The mine office and shop are located to the southeast of the majority of the reclamation off of 5<sup>th</sup> Street. The pad was stable with no erosional features. No fuels or other hydrocarbons are stored on-site. The area was well kept with no trash or debris laying around.

**SIGNS AND MARKERS – Rule 4.02:**

Mine identification signs were posted on all entrances to the permit area. The signs displayed the CDRMS permit number, the permittee's address and name. Contact information was also provided for the Division. Fencing also marked the permit boundary. Signs with permit boundary on them were observed to be posted on the fencing in multiple locations. All posted signs were in easily viewable locations.

**TOPSOIL – Rule 4.06**

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

Two topsoil piles, 14 and 15, are located adjacent to Pond 016. The topsoil piles were stable with vegetative cover. No erosional features were observed. There was no loss of topsoil resource identified.

Another 2 Topsoil Piles, 11A and 11B (Photo 9), are located in the southern part of the permit boundary south of IC-1. The piles were observed to be stable with no erosional features. Both piles were covered with vegetation. There was no indication of the loss of topsoil resource.

Three Topsoil Piles C, D, and H are located south of the mine office pad. The topsoil piles were stable with vegetative cover. No erosional features were identified. No loss of topsoil resource had occurred. It was observed that some topsoil material from Pile D had been removed as approved under MR-130.

**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: The Deer seen crossing the Johnson Access Road from DP-20 to DP-21.



Photo 2: Pond 012.



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Photo 3: Pond 013.



Photo 4: Pond 015.



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Photo 5: Pond 018.



Photo 6: Dryland Pasture DP-20.



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Photo 7: Dryland Pasture DP-21.



Photo 8: Irrigated Cropland IC-1.



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Photo 9: Topsoil Stockpile 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 Nov. 2024
Transfers/Succession of Operator	Ok 2016
Temporary Cessation Notification	NA
Reclamation Cost Estimate	RN-8
<b>CERTIFICATIONS</b>	
Pond Certifications	OK
Annual Certifications for Impoundments	2024
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	3 <sup>rd</sup> Q. 2024
Stormwater Management Plan	Ok 2019
SPCC Plan	NA
MSHA Pond Inspections	NA
	NA
State Engineer's Pond Inspection	
Quarterly Pond Inspections	3 <sup>rd</sup> Q. 2024
Annual Hydrology Reports	2024
• 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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