

STATE OF
COLORADO

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

C1980007, West Elk Mine, December Inspection Report

3 messages

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

Mon, Dec 23, 2024 at 8:00 AM

Jessica,

The December inspection report is attached. Please note that there is an issue that requires your attention under the "Availability of Records" heading.

Thanks,
Leigh

Leigh Simmons
Environmental Protection Specialist



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

P 720.220.1180

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203

leigh.simmons@state.co.us | <https://drms.colorado.gov>**INSP-REPORTC_C1980007_LDS_12212024123632.pdf**
2894K

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

Mon, Dec 30, 2024 at 10:13 AM

Thank you Leigh. The Availability of Records files have been updated.

Jessica Wilczek, PE

Manager of Engineering and Environmental Affairs | West Elk Mine

[5174 Highway 133 | Somerset, CO 81434](#)

o: 970 929.2308 | m: 970 250.1570

jwilczek@archrsc.com | www.archrsc.com

From: Simmons - DNR, Leigh <leigh.simmons@state.co.us>
Sent: Monday, December 23, 2024 8:00 AM
To: Wilczek, Jessica A. <jwilczek@archrsc.com>
Subject: C1980007, West Elk Mine, December Inspection Report

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

Thu, Jan 2, 2025 at 8:16 AM

Thanks Jessica

Leigh Simmons
Environmental Protection Specialist



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1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203
leigh.simmons@state.co.us | <https://drms.colorado.gov>


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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: December 17, 2024 Inspection Start Time: 11:00 Inspection End Date: Inspection End Time:		Inspection Type: Coal Complete 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: December 21, 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

N - Hydrologic Balance

R - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Other

R - Processing Waste

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

AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS – Rule 5.02.4(1):

Records were available using a public access laptop in the small conference room at the mine office. Details are given at the end of this report.

The CDPS permit and the ATFE permit have each expired. Please update the file with copies of the renewed permits, or the notices of administrative extension.

GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE:

Longwall mining of the LWE16 panel was in progress, at around cross-cut 11 on the head gate.

Three development crews were working: in the B26 tail gate at around cross-cut 10, in the B26 head gate at around cross-cut 30, and in the B27 head gate at around cross-cut 18.

Contractors with Phoenix Mining continued to work on pillaring of the Sunset Mains, the job was expected to be completed by March 2025.

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

Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization; Placement:

The processing plant had been operating intermittently to wash roof rock produced by development mining. The two anticipated faults in LWE16, which may require the coal to be washed, had not yet been encountered.

An estimated 14,000 tons of processing waste was temporarily stockpiled on the RPE. The RPEE was not accessible since the road had not been plowed past the first hairpin, no material had recently been transported there.

The amount of fines stockpiled around the site continued to be drawn down, with an estimated 70,000 tons remaining.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 4

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2

SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

The permit for the Box Canyon North Well had been issued, and work was in progress to set the pump on it.

Work had not yet begun on the loadout drainage project.

The project to line Silo 2 was still in progress.

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.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Figure 1: Box Canyon North Well

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Figure 2: Temporary waste stockpile on RPE



Figure 3: C1 conveyor

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 4

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Figure 4: FW-1 pond and office/bathhouse



Figure 5: Portal bench and Materials Storage Bench

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 4

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2



Figure 6: Silo 2

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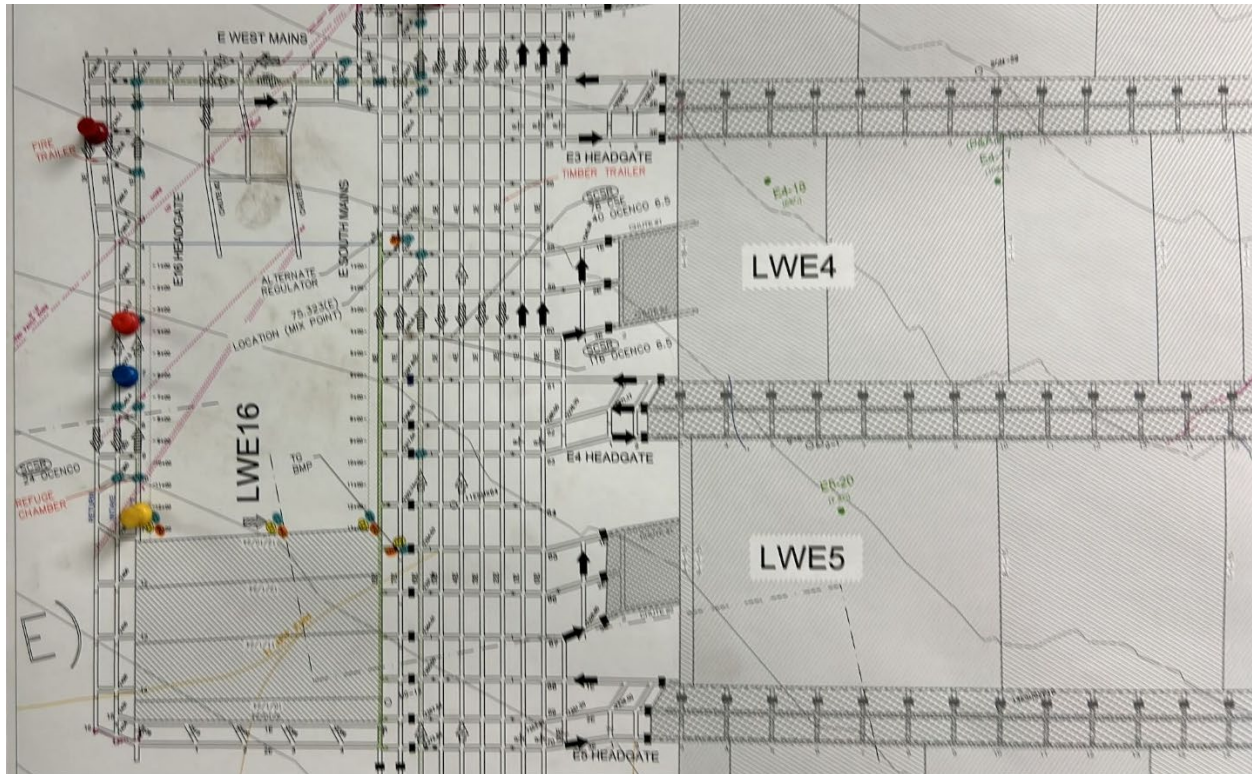


Figure 7: Mine map showing longwall progress

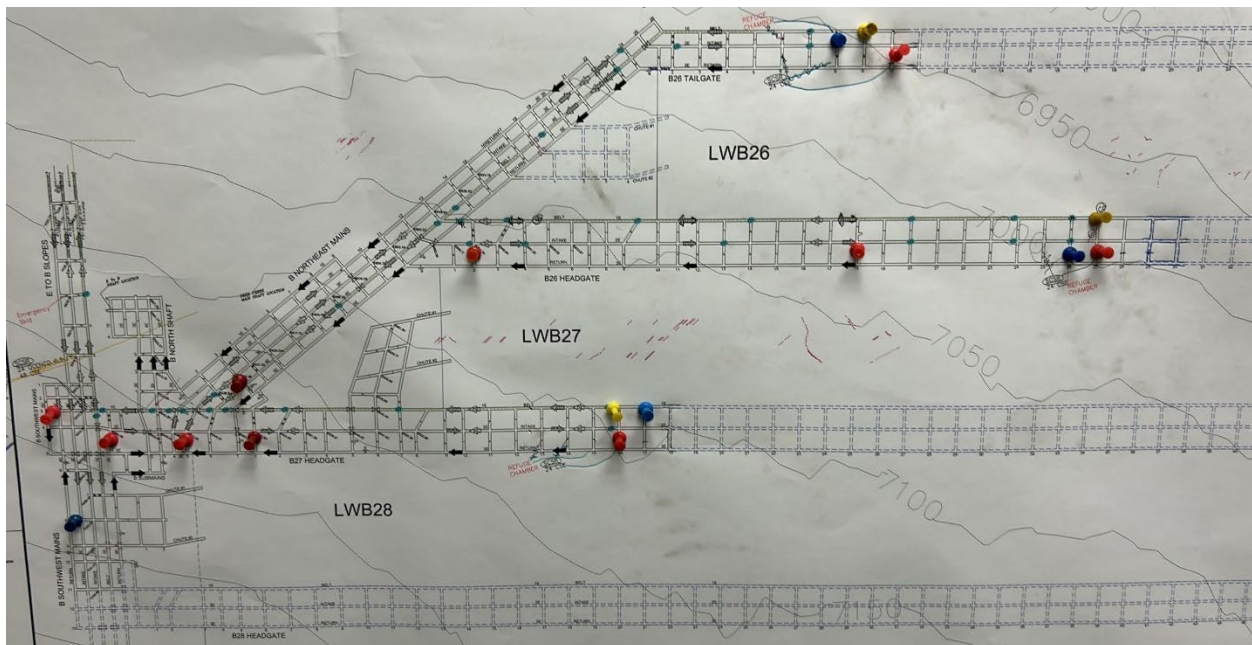


Figure 8: Mine map showing B-seam development progress

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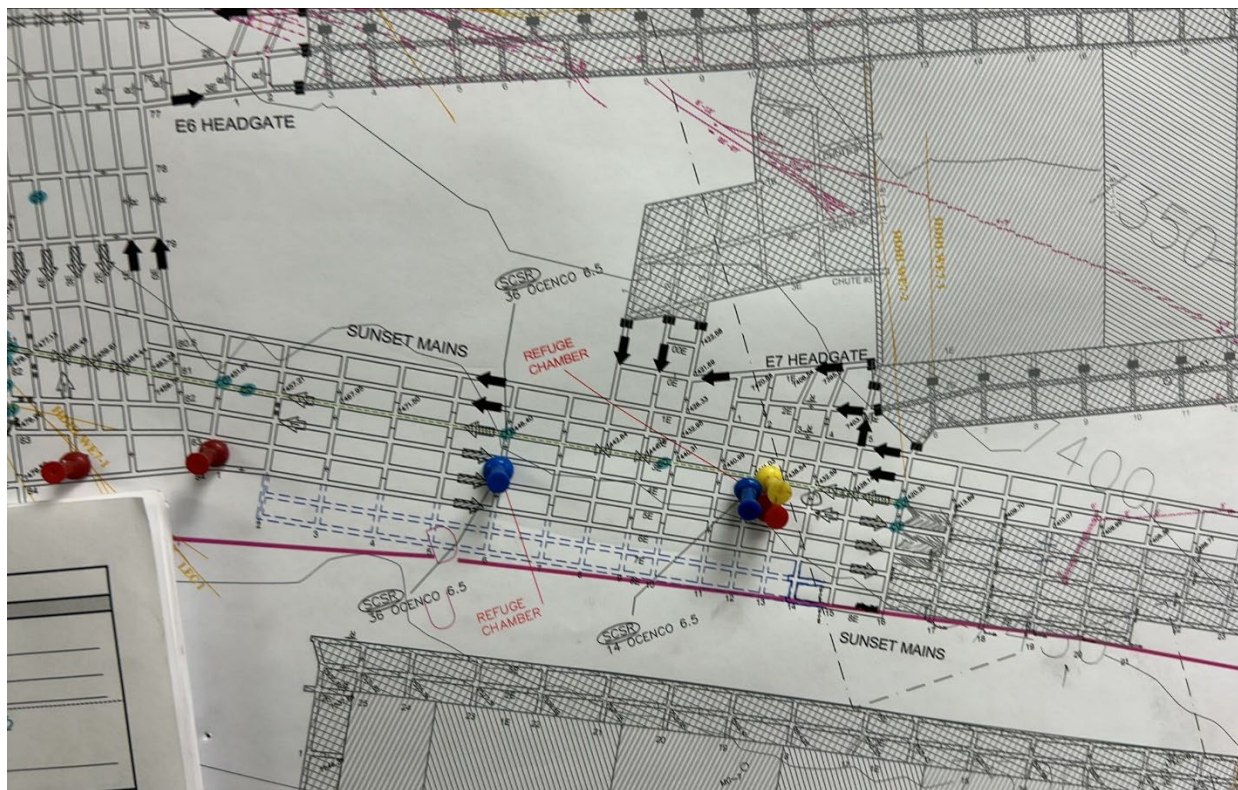


Figure 9: Mine map showing pillaring progress

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AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS**PERMIT RECORDS**

DRMS Permit Expires 7/31/26
Permit Application w/Revisions LF
Findings Document RN-8, 6/1/2022

Insurance Certificate Expires 7/31/25
Bond Document \$5M & \$10M
Phased Bond Release Thru SL-17
Documents/Findings
Air Emission Permits*2 09GU1382
 10GU1130
 13GU1462

County Special Use Permits N/A

UG Mining Landowner Yes
Notification
Subsidence Monitoring Reports Fall 2023
Subsidence Monitoring Data Q1 2024
Rill & Gully Survey N/A

Vegetation Monitoring Data SL-17
Specific Variance Approvals Stream buffer zone

Annual Reclamation Reports 2023
Midterm Review Documents MT-08*1
DRMS/OSM Inspection Through 11/24

Reports/Enforcement Actions (3 Years)
Transfers/Succession of Operator Yes
Temporary Cessation Notification N/A
Reclamation Cost Estimate RN-08
CERTIFICATIONS
Pond Certifications Yes
Annual Certifications for Impoundments N/A

Fill Certifications for Excess Spoil or Underground Development Waste

• Quarterly Inspections Q3 2024
 • Compaction Testing Q3 2024
 • Final Certification N/A

Coal Processing Waste Banks Yes
Haul Road Certifications Yes
Access Road Certifications Yes

COMMENTS:

*1 MT-09 is in progress

*2 The renewed CDPS permit is the subject of ongoing litigation. The dispute was heard by the appeals court in February 2024, but no verdict has yet been reached.

HYDROLOGIC RECORDS

NPDES Permit Exp 9/30/24, *2
NPDES Records Through 11/24
Stormwater Management Plan 2/23/2023

SPCC Plan 3/4/2022
MSHA Pond Inspections N/A
State Engineer's Pond Inspection 10/23/2018
Quarterly Pond Inspections Q3 2024

Annual Hydrology Reports 7/24 for 2023 water year
 Yes

• **Ground Water Monitoring**
 • **Surface Water Monitoring** Yes
 • **Spring & Seep Monitoring** Yes
 • **Mine Water Discharge Monitoring** Yes
 • **Mine Inflow Study** Yes
 • **Water Consumption Records** Yes

Well Permits Yes

BLASTING RECORDS

Blasting Publication N/A
Blasting Records (3 years) N/A
ATFE Explosives Permit Expires 6/1/24*3
Blasting Variances N/A
Pre-Blast Surveys N/A

ADDITIONAL RECORDS (specify)

Monthly Air Quality Cert. Through 11/24
 Rock Dust Maintenance Through 12/24
 Monthly Stormwater Outfall Inspections Through 10/24
 RCRA/ Haz waste Through 11/24

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***3 The ATFE license on file has expired, please update the file with the renewed license**

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