STATE OF COLORADO

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

Deserado Mine, C-1981-018, 2023 AHR Review Letter

1 message

Wein - DNR, Clayton <clayton.wein@state.co.us> Thu, Feb 6, 2025 at 11:32 AM
To: Kurt Blunt <kblunt@deserado.com>

Good morning Kurt,

Attached is the Division's review letter for the Deserado Mine's 2023 AHR. The Division has no adequacy concerns. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Clayton Wein
Environmental Protection Specialist

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

P 720.762.6156 | F 303.832.8106
1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203
clayton.wein@state.co.us | https://www.drms.colorado.gov

Deserado Mine, C-1981-018, 2023 AHR Review Letter.pdf
200K

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

February 6, 2025

Kurt Blunt
Blue Mountain Energy, Inc.
3607 County Rd. 65
Rangely, CO 81648

RE: Deserado Mine, Permit No. C-1981-018
2023 Annual Hydrology Report

Dear Mr. Blunt,

The Division received the 2023 Annual Hydrology Report (AHR) on January 31, 2024. Thank you for your timely submittal. The Division finds the 2023 AHR in compliance with the following Rules:

Rule 4.05.13(4)(a) – The data collected for the 2023 AHR is kept and maintained at the Deserado Mine Office.

Rule 4.05.13(4)(b) – The 2023 AHR is compiled from the analysis of hydrologic data collected from the monitoring period of October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023.

Rule 4.05.13(c)(i), (ii), (iii) – The 2023 AHR was submitted to the Division by the determined date on which the permittee and the Division agreed to. The report included an interpretation of the collected data and identified mining related impacts to the hydrologic balance.

The 2023 data support the predictions of the Probable Hydrologic Consequences (PHC) of the Deserado Mine permit. The following is a review of the 2023 data as per the PHC:

- Groundwater inflow is usually 20 to 40 gallons per minute (gpm), occasional increased inflows occur when a localized perched water table is encountered. Other inflows to the mine are the result of water from leaks and water line brakes. The total incidental inflow of water into the mine was approximately 8.21 gpm in the 2023 water year. The value is in the predicted range of 5 to 10 gpm. In May of 2012 a dewatering pump system was installed to pump excess water captured in the underground mine to the surface. Water pumped to the

surface from the B Seam in the 2023 water year was 28,892,424 gallons or 54.97 gpm. Water pumped from the SDH-3/5 D-Seam Dewatering System during the 2023 water year was 42,944,844 gallons or 81.71 gpm.

- Predicted by the PHC, Monitoring wells within close proximity to the mine workings show a decrease in piezometric levels. Well 29-4U was subsided in 2013 and the well became blocked. Four wells showed an increase in piezometric level and four wells showed a decrease in piezometric level. Three wells, 30-8M and 32-7U and 22-3M were dry. One well, 31-7M, had no recorded change from the previous monitoring year. Four wells have been plugged to eliminate connection with the surface; 29-4M, 29-4U, 32-7M and 32-7L. Well Qal-5 is the only remaining alluvial well. The data from the full suite analysis are all within the historical ranges.

- The point of compliance well, 22-3M, was recorded to be dry during the 2023 water year**.** Exhibit C indicates that field samples were attempted to be collected on September 20, 2023.

- Discharge monitoring reports and the 2023 AHR indicate that outfalls 001 (DP-1), 026 (SDH-3), and 029 (B Seam Dewatering System No. 1) discharged during the 2022 water year. Discharge points 001 and 029 discharged during all four quarters of the water year. Whereas 026 only discharged during the third quarter of 2023. The Facilities Area Pond PP-2 did not discharge to Scullion Gulch during the 2023 water year. There was no discharge to Red Wash from any of the ponds treating water from the refuse disposal area. Ponds RP-1, RP-2/3/4 and RP-5 are designed to treat all the run-off from the waste piles. There are no springs or seeps located in the refuse disposal area. The ponds associated with the Slot Storage and Rail Loadout did not record any discharge. The mine site also receives a low amount of annual precipitation.

- The effects of subsidence on Red Wash were predicted to be short-term. Ponding in the stream bed and surface cracks in the alluvium were created by subsidence of the drainage. Red Wash contains a high content of clay and silt sediments that have filled in the cracks and depressions, maintaining the original stream channel. Scullion Gulch has no observed surface hydrologic consequences due to the effects of subsidence.

This concludes the Division's review of the 2023 Annual Hydrology Report for the Deserado Mine. The Division has no further comments or questions. If you have any questions, please contact me at (720)-762-6156.

C-1981-018
2023 AHR Review
2/6/2025

Sincerely,

Clayton Wein
Environmental Protection Specialist
clayton.wein@state.co.us

cc: Travis Marshall, Senior Environmental Protection Specialist, GJFO