



STATE OF
COLORADO

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

C1980007, West Elk Mine, March Inspection Report

Simmons - DNR, Leigh <leigh.simmons@state.co.us>
To: "Munz, Robert" <RobertMunz@coreresources.com>

Tue, Apr 8, 2025 at 2:47 PM

Bob,

The Division's report of the March inspection is attached.
There are a couple of items that need your attention under the Availability of Records heading.

Leigh Simmons
Environmental Protection Specialist



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

P [720.220.1180](tel:720.220.1180)

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203

leigh.simmons@state.co.us | <https://drms.colorado.gov>




INSP-REPORTC_C1980007_LDS_04082025120112.pdf
9110K



PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1980-007 Mine Name: West Elk Mine Operator: Mountain Coal Company, LLC Operator Address: Robert Munz 5174 Highway 133 Somerset, CO 81434	County: Delta, Gunnison Operation Type: Underground Permit Status: Active Ownership: Private
	Operator Representative Present: Natalie Stafford, Josh Thompson
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) 	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: February 28, 2025 Inspection Start Time: 08:30 Inspection End Date: Inspection End Time:		Inspection Type: Coal Complete Inspection Inspection Reason: Normal I&E Program Weather: Cloudy	
Joint Inspection Agency: None		Joint Inspection Contacts: 	
Post Inspection Agency: None		Post Inspection Contacts: 	
Inspector(s): Leigh Simmons	Inspector's Signature: 		Signature Date: April 8, 2025

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 overcast but dry, with patches of snow on the ground in shaded areas. The mine was active. The inspection was accompanied by Natalie Stafford and Josh Thompson 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 ATFE permit has expired. Please update the file with a copy of the renewed permits, or the notice of administrative extension.

Please also ensure that all records added to the thumb drive are in a .pdf format, since the public access laptop cannot be used to open .xls files.

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:

Ditches and culverts around the facilities area were clean and in good order.

Sediment ponds SG1, RPE, MB3 and MB5E were holding water, but not discharging. No issues were observed with liners, embankments and discharge structures.

GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE:

Longwall mining of the LWE16 panel was in progress, at around cross cut 9 on the head gate.

Three development crews were working: in the B26 tail gate at around cross-cut 33, in the B26 head gate at around cross-cut 56, and in the B27 head gate at around cross-cut 31.

Contractors with Phoenix Mining continued to work on pillaring of the Sunset Mains, the job was nearing completion.

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Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 3

PROCESSING WASTE/COAL MINE WASTE PILES – Rule 4.10 and 4.11**Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization; Placement:**

No waste had recently been transported to the RPEE, but the road was passable in a light truck. The surface of the waste pile was smooth, compact and graded to drain to the north west, but the surface material was still wet and no attempt was made to drive onto it. The recently reclaimed outcrops of the pile were in good shape after the winter, with no obvious signs of erosion. Straw wattles had remained in place.

Some processing waste was being generated in order to satisfy particularly stringent shipping requirements and was being temporarily stockpiled on the RPE.

Stockpiled coal fines continued to be drawn down, with an estimated 53,000 tons remaining. MCC planned to clear the site of fines by the end of the summer.

SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

The project to line silo 2 was in progress, with 5-6 concrete trucks arriving at the site per day. The liner had been constructed up to around 48 feet.

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.

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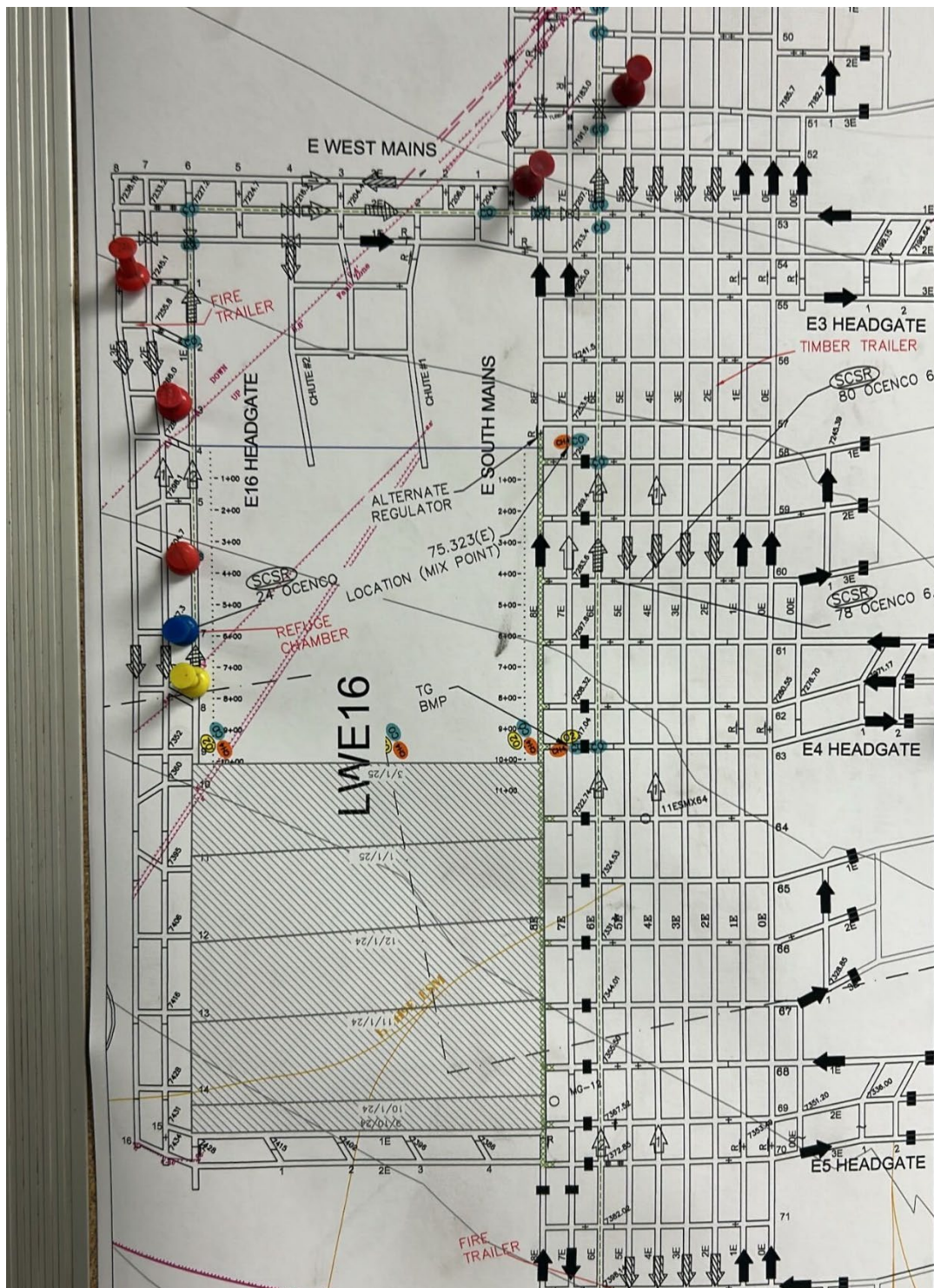
PHOTOGRAPHS

Figure 1: Mine map showing longwall progress in LWE16

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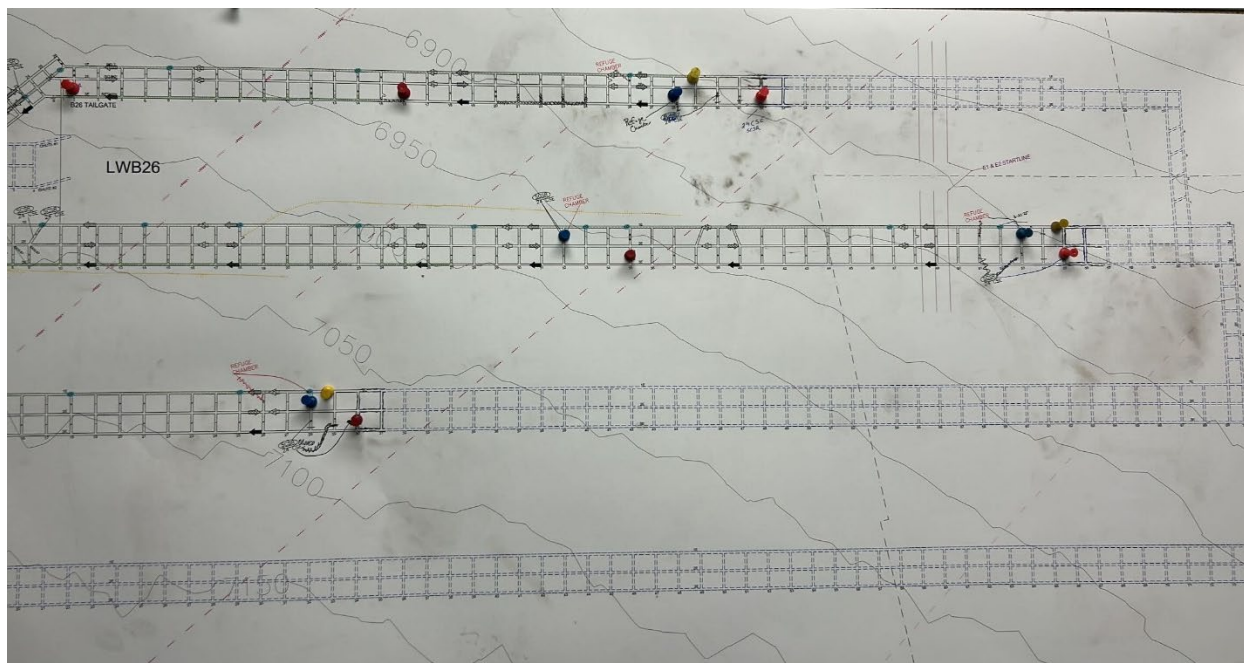


Figure 2: Mine map showing B-seam development progress



Figure 3: Mine map showing pillaring progress

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Figure 4: RPEE, front side, top of pile



Figure 5: RPEE, top of pile

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Figure 6: RPEE, northwest corner



Figure 7: Recently reclaimed outslope of RPEE

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Figure 8: RPE and RPE ponds

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Figure 9: D5E-1A

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Figure 10: D5E-1

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Figure 11: D3-2A

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Figure 12: D3-2

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Figure 13: Work in progress at silo 2

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Figure 14: Sediment trap at inlet to C5E-1

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Figure 15: Outlet of C5E-12, inlet of C5E-1



Figure 16: Material Storage Area at Dewatering Hole Pad

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Figure 17: Small slump on edge of Material Storage Area



Figure 18: Electric Borehole SAE

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Figure 19: SGI pond



Figure 20: Slump on Material Storage Bench

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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 Spring 2024
Subsidence Monitoring Data Q1 2024
Rill & Gully Survey N/A

Vegetation Monitoring Data SL-17
Specific Variance Approvals Stream buffer zone
 2024

Annual Reclamation Reports 2024
Midterm Review Documents MT-09
DRMS/OSM Inspection Through 2/25

Reports/Enforcement Actions (3 Y) Yes
Transfers/Succession of Operator N/A
Temporary Cessation Notification MT-09
Reclamation Cost Estimate

CERTIFICATIONS

Pond Certifications Yes
Annual Certifications for N/A
Impoundments

Fill Certifications for Excess
Spoil or Underground
Development Waste

- Quarterly Inspections Q4 2024
- Compaction Testing Q4 2024
- Final Certification N/A

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

HYDROLOGIC RECORDS

NPDES Permit Exp 9/30/24, *1
NPDES Records Through 2/25
Stormwater Management 2/23/2023
Plan

SPCC Plan 3/4/2022
MSHA Pond Inspections N/A
State Engineer's Pond 10/23/2018
Inspection
Quarterly Pond Inspections Q4 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** Yes

Records
Well Permits Yes

BLASTING RECORDS

Blasting Publication N/A
Blasting Records (3 years) N/A
ATFE Explosives Permit Expires 6/1/24*2
Blasting Variances N/A
Pre-Blast Surveys N/A

ADDITIONAL RECORDS
(specify) *3

Monthly Air Quality Cert.	Through 11/24
Rock Dust Maintenance	Through 2/25
Monthly Stormwater Outfall Inspections	Through 12/24
RCRA/ Haz waste	Through 2/25

*1 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. The permit has been administratively extended.

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

*3 Please update the records of monthly air quality certification; please save the monthly stormwater inspections as pdf files since the laptop used to access the records can't open xls files

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