



STATE OF
COLORADO

Reilley - DNR, Robin <robin.reilley@state.co.us>

DRMS 2025 April inspection

1 message

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Thu, Apr 24, 2025 at 4:51 PM

To: Graham Roberts <graham.roberts@trappermine.com>, Robin Reilley - DNR <robin.reilley@state.co.us>

Good afternoon Graham,

Please find DRMS's 2025 April inspection for the Trapper Mine. This was a partial inspection.

Thank you

Robin Reilley, M.S. GISP
Environmental Protection Specialist II

image.png

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

16 April 2025

PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C1981010 Mine Name: Trapper Mine Operator: Trapper Mining, Inc. Operator Address: Mr. Graham Roberts P.O. Box 187 Craig, CO 81626	County: Moffat Operation Type: Surface Permit Status: Active Ownership: Federal Operator Representative Present: Graham Roberts
This report was issued electronically from the Divisions' Denver Office.	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: 16 April 2025 Inspection Start Time: 8:30 a.m. Inspection End Date: 16 April 2025 Inspection End Time: 16:45 p.m.	Inspection Type: Partial Inspection Inspection Reason: Normal I&E Program Weather: Cloudy
Joint Inspection Agency:	Joint Inspection Contacts:
Post Inspection Agency: None	Post Inspection Contacts:
Inspector(s): Robin A. Reilley, M.S. GISP	Inspector's Signature:  Signature Date: 24 April 2025

Inspection Topic Summary	
NOTE: Y=Inspected N=Not Inspected R=Comments Noted V=Violation Issued NA=Not Applicable	
Y - Air Resource Protection	R - Roads
N - Availability of Records	Y - Reclamation Success
R - Backfill & Grading	Y - Revegetation
NA - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste	Y - Subsidence
R - Explosives	R - Slides and Other Damage
R - Fish & Wildlife	R - Support Facilities On-site
R - Hydrologic Balance	R - Signs and Markers
R - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan	NA - Support Facilities Not On-site
NA - Other	NA - Special Categories Of Mining
NA - Processing Waste	R - Topsoil

COMMENTS

This was a partial inspection of the Trapper Mine; permit C1981010, operated by Trapper Mining Inc. The inspection was conducted, and the report and photos prepared by me, Robin Reilley of the DRMS. Graham Roberts Trapper Mine representative was present throughout the inspection. No hydrologic or air quality issues were detected at the time of inspection. The sky was partly cloudy, and the air was generally calm. Temperatures ranged between 50 and 65 degrees Fahrenheit.

PERMITTING ACTIONS in PROGRESS:

PR12

ARR

MAINTANENCE ITEMS IDENTIFIED

Rock work in Buzzard and Middle Flume drainages and constructed drainages in A Pit

Pond dredging

Rill and gully work D Pit

INSPECTION

GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE:

Roads were being watered, coal and overburden were being loaded and hauled. The Ready Line was in good repair. The Ash Pit surface was in adequate repair with some rutting, normal for this time of year.

Ash Pit: The Ash pit is close to its PMT and the surface was in good repair, firm with some minor rutting from earlier soft soil as thawing took place.

J Pit West: The highwall miner was inactive at the time of inspection. The Queen Ann dragline was staged at the west end of the pit and was inactive at the time of inspection. A long pile of coal ready to haul and mix was stationed along the north length of the highwall. Some coal is slated for removal along the south highwall. The south highwall is wet and seeping water. Mining is scheduled for completion in late spring of 2025, so reclamation in the form of backfilling and grading could begin at that time.

J Pit East: The Pit will not be further developed; 0.25 million tons will be left.

D Pit: D Pit discing and seeding are scheduled for the 2025 field season. A temporary seed mixture comprised of triticale had been applied and was beginning to emerge. The pit appeared stable at the time of inspection. Check dams were in good repair. Some rilling was evident on the east facing slopes.

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N Pit: Loading and hauling overburden from east end of N Pit. A blast was being developed at the east end of N Pit. The highwall miner was active at the time of inspection in the M seam of Panel 2 and coal was being produced.

L Pit: The Baby Doe was stationed in north end of the pit and Molly Brown at the south end of the pit. Mining is occurring in the K and L seams. Overburden was being loaded and hauled.

SIGNS and MARKERS – Rule 4.02

- The ponds have sediment markers and identification signs.
- Topsoil piles are designated by PVC marked with a T.
- Permit marker boundary observed on the west and north perimeter of the site are indicated by PVC marked with a P.

ROADS – Rule 4.03

Construction 4.03.1(3) I 4.03.2(3); Drainage 4.03.1(4) I 4.03.2(4); Surfacing and Maintenance 4.03.1(5) and (6) I 4.03.2(5) and (6); Reclamation 4.03.1(7) I 4.03.2(7)

- Main haul roads were dry and in good repair. Haul roads were being watered as needed and graded along the ditch lines to fortify the ditches.
- Access roads were accessible although rutted due to earlier muddy days, and in adequate repair at the time of inspection.
- Ditches along haul roads and access roads appeared to be functioning adequately.

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; Drainage- Acid and Toxic Materials 4.05.8; Impoundments 4.05.6, 4.05.9; Stream Buffer Zones 4.05.18

Ponds were accessible due at the time of inspection. Pond banks were stable and vegetated, spillways, appeared in good repair at the time of inspection. Dam out slopes were vegetated and no seepage was observed through the dams of the ponds visited at the time of inspection. Snow and ice had melted out of all ponds.

Ponds visited included:

- East Buzzard #3: Holding water and was not discharging at the time of inspection.
- West Buzzard #4: Holding water and was not discharging at the time of inspection. The drainage way needs replacement of rocks that moved over the runoff period.
- Far East Buzzard #1: Holding a small amount of water.
- Ute #1: Holding water at the time of inspection and not discharging.
- East Flume #1: Dry at the time of inspection.
- East Middle Flume #1 is scheduled for dredging this field season. The Pond was holding water with a crop of emerging cattails covering the pond. The inlet is being eroded by clear pit water that is pumped at head of inlet.
- Middle Flume #1 holding water and not discharging.
- Middle Pyeatt #1 has a delta at the inlet.
- No Name #4 and #5 holding water and discharging at the time of inspection.
- No Name #2 shows significant sedimentation and will be dredged this summer. The pond is scheduled for dredging this summer. The pond was discharging at the time of inspection.

TOPSOIL – RULE 4.06

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

- No instability or riling were noted on the observed topsoil piles. Topsoil piles are vegetated, with vegetation still dormant at the time of inspection.

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- Topsoil piles are marked.

USE of EXPLOSIVES – Rule 4.08

General Requirements 4.08.1; Pre blasting survey 4.08.2; Public Notice of Blasting Schedule 4.08.3; Surface Blasting Requirements 4.08.4; Records of Blasting for Surface Coal Mining 4.08.5; Seismographic Measurements 4.08.6d stripping.

- Blasts were being developed in N and L Pits.

SLIDES and OTHER DAMAGE- Rule 4.12

- A crack has existed at top of D Pit. Despite 2023 efforts to mitigate the cracking, the crack remerged in 2024 and is visible in 2025 but appears unchanged.
- The operator routinely monitors the scarp areas throughout the site for any changes, specifically additional movement, cracking or slumping.

BACKFILL and GRADING – RULE 4.14

- Reclamation consists of benched (dragline), and dozer piled overburden in L Pit awaiting grading, generally an ongoing activity at Trapper Mine.
- The flat surfaces of the Ash Pit were dry and firm, with no standing water or ruts.
- PMT should be evaluated as it appears that it is approaching the approved elevations.

REVEGETATION - Rule 4.15

General Requirements 4.15.1; Use of Species 4.15.2, Grazing 4.15.5

- Revegetated areas of reclamation appear stable. Species were dormant and snow covered at the time of inspection.

FISH and WILDLIFE– RULE 4.18

Wildlife sightings included waterfowl, ravens, and red and white tailed hawks.

INSPECTION, ENFORCEMENT and CIVIL PENALTIES – RULE 5

Inspections 5.02; Availability of Records

- As this was a partial inspection, records were not checked.

DOCUMENTS RECEIVED

None

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

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

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: Coyote Pond and the decant structure looking east.



Photo 2: Far East Buzzard #1 Pond holding a small amount of water and not discharging.

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Photo 3: Waste solvent accumulation site, secured with adequate containment.



Photo 4: No Name Pond #2 with sediment fan from D Pit drainage looking south.
The pond was discharging at the time of inspection.

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Photo 5: View of L Pit activities looking southeast.



Photo 6: Blast prepared in L Pit looking southeast.

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Photo 7: Drag Line working in L Pit, looking south.



Photo 8: East Middle Flume #1 with a crop of emerging cattails and a delta slated for dredging this field season.

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Photo 9: View of N Pit from above looking south. Coal is being produced by the highwall miner.