



STATE OF
COLORADO

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C1980007, West Elk Mine, May Inspection Report

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Tue, May 27, 2025 at 5:03 PM

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Cc: JoshThompson@coreresources.com, "Stafford, Natalie" <NatalieStafford@coreresources.com>, "Mackinnon, Daniel" <dmackinnon@osmre.gov>, kyingling@osmre.com

Attached

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INSP-REPORTC_C1980007_LDS_05272025041708.pdf
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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: Josh Thompson, Natalie Stafford
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) 	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: May 20, 2025 Inspection Start Time: 08:30 Inspection End Date: May 20, 2025 Inspection End Time: 12:30		Inspection Type: Coal Partial Inspection Inspection Reason: Normal I&E Program Weather: Clear	
Joint Inspection Agency: OSMRE		Joint Inspection Contacts: Dan Mackinnon, Kyler Yingling	
Post Inspection Agency: None		Post Inspection Contacts: 	
Inspector(s): Leigh Simmons	Inspector's Signature: 		Signature Date: May 27, 2025

Inspection Topic Summary

NOTE: Y=Inspected N=Not Inspected R=Comments Noted V=Violation Issued NA=Not Applicable

Y - Air Resource Protection

N - Availability of Records

N - Backfill & Grading

N - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

N - Explosives

N - Fish & Wildlife

R - Hydrologic Balance

R - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Other

R - Processing Waste

Y - Roads

R - Reclamation Success

R - Revegetation

N - Subsidence

N - Slides and Other Damage

R - Support Facilities On-site

Y - Signs and Markers

N - Support Facilities Not On-site

N - Special Categories Of Mining

Y - Topsoil

COMMENTS

This was a partial inspection by Leigh Simmons of the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division). The weather was fine and dry. The mine was active. The inspection was accompanied by Josh Thompson and Natalie Stafford of Mountain Coal Company (MCC), and Dan Mackinnon and Kyler Yingling of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE).

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:

Contractors with D&S Underground were on site, working on cleaning ditches and culverts around the facilities area.

The MB5E, MB3, RPE and SG1 ponds were all inspected and were holding water. None of the ponds were discharging.

GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE:

Longwall mining of the LWE16 panel was in progress, at around cross cut 8 on the head gate. A longwall move to the B26 panel was anticipated in mid-June.

Three development crews were working: (a Phoenix Mining crew) in the B26 tail gate at around cross-cut 45, on the B26 start line, and in the B27 head gate at around cross-cut 33.

Pillaring of the Sunset Mains was complete. The project had been ended a little earlier than originally planned, and the contractors had left the site.

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

Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization; Placement:

The prep plant was busy, washing coal from the LWE16 panel. Planned maintenance on the plant had been postponed until the longwall move.

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Fines were being generated and stockpiled at ST-1 on the Run-of-Mine pad, ready to be blended back in to coal shipments as customer specifications allow. Processing waste was being transported directly to the RPEE.

Waste from the temporary stockpile on the RPE was also being transported to the RPEE.

The underdrain was exposed at the southern extent of the RPEE and will need to be extended for the pile to grow any taller. Just east of the underdrain a considerable amount of grubbed vegetation as well as some scrap metal will need to be removed before material can be placed and compacted. The surface of the RPEE was sloped to the northwest, and work was ongoing to add and compact material, raising the grade at the front of the pile.

RECLAMATION SUCCESS - Rule 4.15, Rule 3:

Straw wattles had been placed on the recently reclaimed outcrops of the RPEE, but had moved in places. The wattles should be re-staked.

REVEGETATION – Rule 4.15

Vegetative Cover; Timing:

Contractors with Pest Away had begun spraying for weeds around the facilities area.

SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

Contractors working on lining the silo had made good progress and had almost reached the top.

Work had not yet begun on the surface water project at the train loadout.

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 panel

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Figure 4: Western end of Run-of-Mine coal stockpile pad; material retained within pad footprint.



Figure 5: Run-of-Mine coal stockpile, with Stack Tube 3 in foreground and stack tubes 2 and 1 behind

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Figure 6: Train Loadout

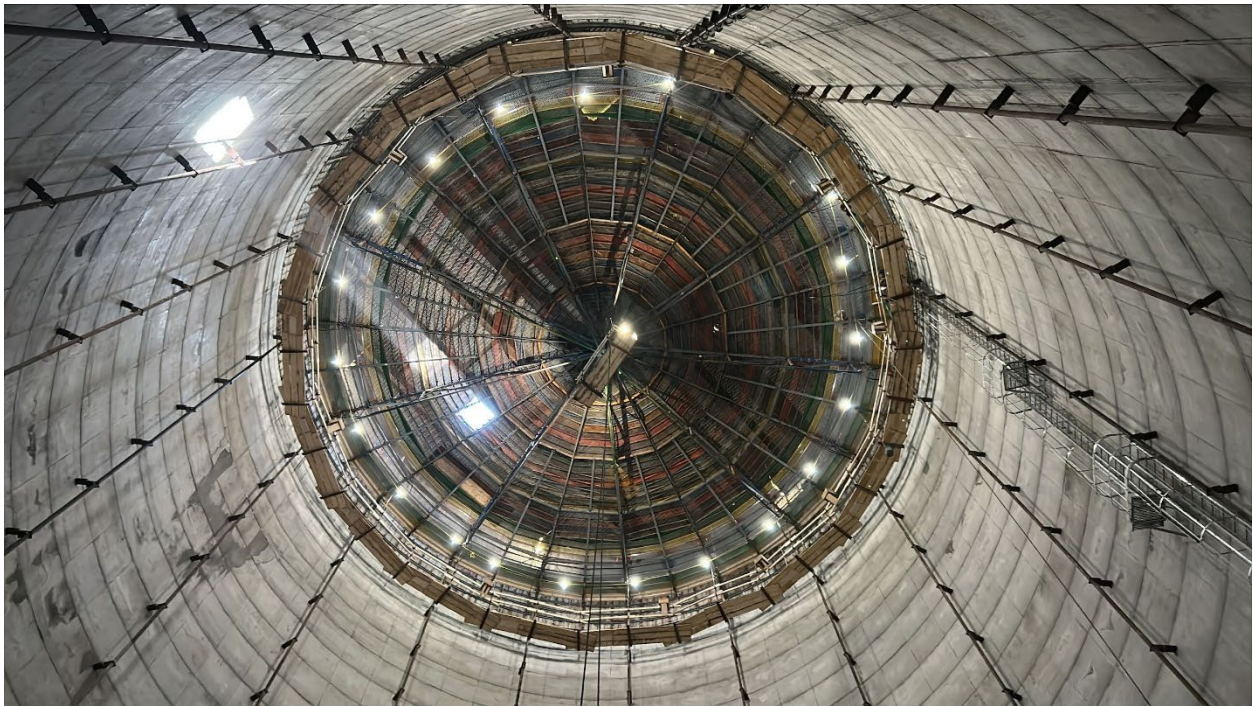


Figure 7: Inside re-lined silo

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Figure 8: Wall of silo, showing original concrete(R) and new lining(L)

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Figure 9: MB3 pond (east)



Figure 10: MB3 pond (west)

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Figure 11: Underdrain on RPEE

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Figure 12: Grubbed vegetation and scrap metal at southeast edge of RPEE must be removed before refuse can be placed



Figure 13: Compaction of processing waste in progress

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Figure 14: Straw wattles need to be re-staked



Figure 15: RPE pond (east)

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Figure 16: RPE pond (west)



Figure 17: Temporary waste pile on RPE

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