



STATE OF  
COLORADO

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

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## New Horizon Mine, C-1981-008, May Complete Inspection Report

1 message

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

Thu, May 29, 2025 at 11:10 AM

To: "Tennyson, Tony (Colowyo)" <tony.tennyson@tristategt.org>

Cc: Lucas West - DNR <lucas.west@state.co.us>

Good morning Tony,

Attached with my email is the Division's Inspection Report for the complete inspection of the New Horizon Mine conducted on May 14th. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

**Clayton Wein**

**Environmental Protection Specialist**



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

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**New Horizon Mine, C-1981-008, May Complete Inspection Report.pdf**

1162K



**PERMIT INFORMATION**

<b>Permit Number:</b> C-1981-008 <b>Mine Name:</b> New Horizon Mine <b>Operator:</b> Elk Ridge Mining and Reclamation, LLC <b>Operator Address:</b> Mr. Tony Tennyson P.O. Box 628 27646 West 5th Avenue Nucla, CO 81424	<b>County:</b> Montrose <b>Operation Type:</b> Surface <b>Permit Status:</b> Active <b>Ownership:</b> Private
	<b>Operator Representative Present:</b>  Mindy Sickles
<b>Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)</b>  	

**INSPECTION INFORMATION**

<b>Inspection Start Date:</b> May 14, 2025 <b>Inspection Start Time:</b> 13:10 <b>Inspection End Date:</b> May 14, 2025 <b>Inspection End Time:</b> 14:15		<b>Inspection Type:</b> Coal Complete Inspection <b>Inspection Reason:</b> Normal I&E Program <b>Weather:</b> Clear	
<b>Joint Inspection Agency:</b>  None		<b>Joint Inspection Contacts:</b>  None	
<b>Post Inspection Agency:</b>  None		<b>Post Inspection Contacts:</b>  None	
<b>Inspector(s):</b>  Clayton Wein	<b>Inspector's Signature:</b>  <i>Clayton Wein</i>  <b>Signature Date:</b> 5/29/2025		

**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 &amp; Grading

N - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

N - Explosives

R - Fish &amp; Wildlife

R - Hydrologic Balance

Y - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Other

N - Processing Waste

R - Roads

R - Reclamation Success

R - Revegetation

N - Subsidence

N - Slides and Other Damage

R - Support Facilities On-site

R - Signs and Markers

N - Support Facilities Not On-site

N - Special Categories Of Mining

R - Topsoil

**COMMENTS**

This report documents the observations made by the Division during a routing complete inspection of the New Horizon 2 Mine, Permit No. C-1981-008. The inspection was completed on May 14, 2025, by Clayton Wein of the Division. Elk Ridge Mining and Reclamation, LLC (ERMR) was represented during the inspection by Mindy Sickles. The weather was cloudy with intermittent rain, and a temperature of 53°F. The ground conditions were dry at the time of the inspection.

**AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS – Rule 5.02.4(1):**

The records for the New Horizon Mine (NH2) are located at the mine office in Nucla Colorado. The records were well kept and up to date. Please see the attached Availability of Records Form at the end of this report for more details.

**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:

Sediment ponds were inspected in order as follows:

Pond 12 is located within the northern portion of the reclamation located northwest of 2700 Rd. and BB Road. Pond 012 was dry at the time of the inspection (Photo 1). The embankment was covered with vegetation and stable. No erosional features or burrows were identified. The outlets for the pond were clear of debris.

Pond 013 is located in the northwestern portion of the reclamation located in the northwestern corner of the intersection of 2700 Rd. and BB road. Pond 013 was impounding water from both irrigation runoff and the seep during the inspection (Photo 2). The level of water in the pond was at the primary discharge outlet and discharge

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from the pond was occurring. The discharge outlet was clear of obstructions and functioning as designed. The embankment was vegetated and stable. No burrows or erosional features were observed.

Pond 015 is located within the western portion of the reclamation within the northwest corner of 2700 Rd. and BB road. Pond 015 was dry at the time of the inspection. The pond's embankment was stable with vegetative cover (Photo 3). The outlet for the pond was clear of debris. No erosional features other than the minor rills previously observed on the inside of the pond's embankment were identified. The rills have been noted in previous Division inspection reports. The rills do not affect the pond's stability or functionality.

Pond 016 is located within the southwestern portion of the reclamation located within the northwestern corner of the 2700 Rd. and BB Road intersection. Pond 016 was also dry during the inspection. The pond's embankment was covered with vegetation and stable. There were no erosional features or burrows observed (Photo 4).

Pond 018 is located to the south of the mine office. Pond 018 was dry during the inspection (Photo 5). The embankment was vegetated and stable. No erosional features or animal burrows spotted. The outlet for the pond was clear of debris.

#### ROADS – Rule 4.03

Construction 4.03.1(3)/4.03.2(3), Drainage 4.03.1(4)/4.03.2(4), Surfacing and Maintenance 4.03.1(5) and (6)/4.03.2(5) and (6), Reclamation 4.03.1(7)/4.03.2(7):

The Johnson Access Road extends from BB Road northwest to Pond 013. The road was observed to be stable with no erosional features. Culvers underneath the road were clear of debris and in good repair.

#### RECLAMATION SUCCESS - Rule 4.15, Rule 3:

The following paragraphs are in order in which the reclamation parcels were inspected.

Dryland pasture parcels DP-11 and DP-14 were stable with no erosional features. Vegetation on the parcels was green and filling in for the season. No indications of differential settling were spotted on these parcels.

Irrigated Pastures IP-9, IP-11 and IP-12 were covered with vegetation and stable. There were no erosional features or indications of differential settling observed.

Prime farmland PF-1 was stable with vegetation. This year is the second growing season for the reclamation parcel and the vegetation was growing well. No erosional features were identified. There were no indications of differential settling.

Dryland pastures DP-10, DP-12 and DP-18 are located around Pond 012. The reclamation parcels were stable with vegetative cover. There were no indications of differential settling or erosion were observed.

Dryland pasture DP-20 was seeded in 2023. Vegetation was growing for the season. One south-southwest facing area has continued to grow a little slower than the rest of DP-20. This area will continue to be monitored and

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addressed if necessary. The site was stable with no erosional features. There were no indications of differential settling.

Dryland pasture DP-21 was also seeded in 2023. The reclamation parcel was stable with no erosional features. Vegetation on the site was continuing to grow in (Photo 6). There were no indications of differential settling.

Irrigated cropland IC-1 is south of BB Road across from Pond 016 (Photo 7). IC-1 was covered with vegetation and being irrigated. There were no indications of instability, erosional or differential settling observed

Dryland Pasture Parcels DP-16 (Photo 8), DP-17 and DP-19 are located around Pond 018. The reclaimed parcels were stable with vegetative cover. There were no signs of differential settling observed.

#### SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

The support facilities for the NH2 Mine are located off 5<sup>th</sup> Street in Nucla. The facilities were stable with no erosion. There was not any trash or debris around the site. No fuels or hydrocarbons are stored on -site.

#### SIGNS AND MARKERS – Rule 4.02:

Mine identification signs were observed to be posted on all the entrances to the permit area. The signs displayed the address, contact information for the permittee, and the DRMS permit number. The signs were in good condition and posted in unobstructed locations.

#### TOPSOIL – Rule 4.06

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

Topsoil Stockpiles 11A and 11B are located to the south of IC-1 (Photo 11). The stockpiles were covered with vegetation and noted to be stable. There were no indications of erosion or loss of topsoil resource. Topsoil pile markers were observed to be posted for both piles.

Topsoil piles 5 (Photo 9), 14, 15, and 16 (Photo 10) are associated with various sediment ponds at the mine site. These topsoil piles were stable with vegetative cover. There were no indications of erosional features or loss of topsoil resource observed. Topsoil pile markers were spotted for each of the piles.

Topsoil stockpiles C, D and H (Photo 11) are located to the south of the facilities area. The stockpiles were observed to be stable with vegetative cover. There were no erosional features or loss of topsoil identified. Each of the topsoil piles had an identifying marker.

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**DOCUMENTS RECEIVED: None**

**OTHER (SPECIFY): None**

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**ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE**

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

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## **PHOTOGRAPHS**

Photo 1: Pond 012.



Photo 2: Pond 013.



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Photo 3: Pond 015 in the depression in the center of the photo.

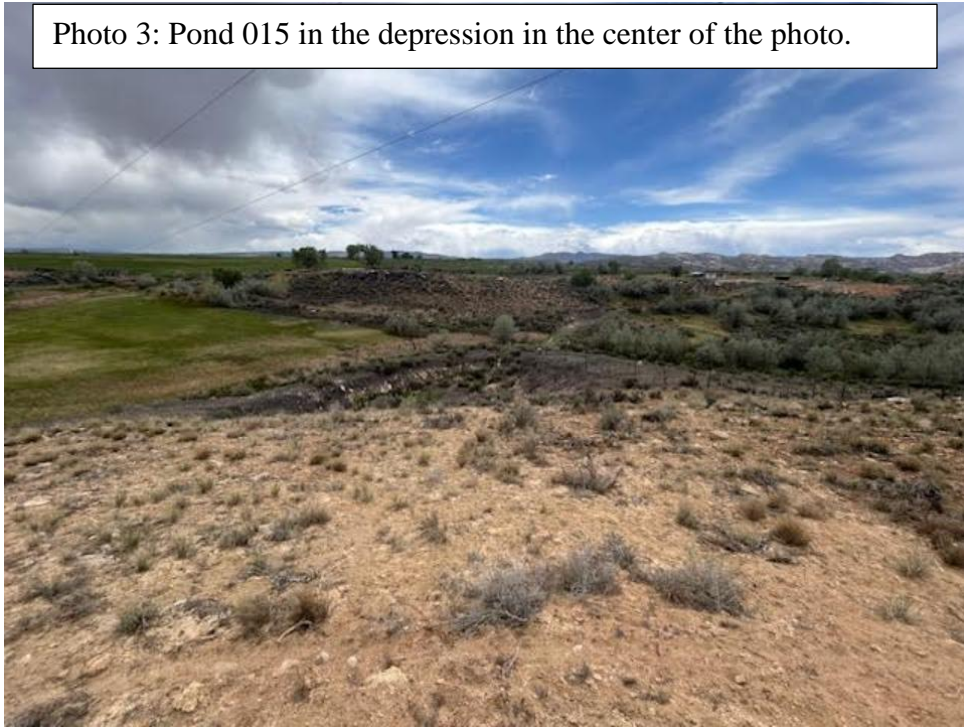


Photo 4: Pond 016.



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Photo 5: Pond 018.



Photo 6: Dryland Pasture DP-21.



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Photo 7: Irrigated Cropland IC-1.



Photo 8: Dryland Pasture DP-16.



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Photo 9: Topsoil Stockpile 5.



Photo 10: Topsoil Stockpile 16.



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Photo 11: Topsoil Stockpile H.



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**AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS****PERMIT RECORDS**

DRMS Permit	RN-8
Permit Application w/Revisions	Ok
Findings Document	RN-8/SL-28
Insurance Certificate	*Exp. Aug.2025
Bond Document	RN-8
Phased Bond Release	SL-28
Documents/Findings	
Air Emission Permits	Ok
County Special Use Permits	Ok
UG Mining Landowner Notification	NA
Subsidence Monitoring Reports	NA
Subsidence Monitoring Data	NA
Rill & Gully Survey	NA
Vegetation Monitoring Data	2024 ARR/SL-25
Specific Variance Approvals	NA
Annual Reclamation Reports	2024
Midterm Review Documents	MT-7
DRMS/OSM Inspection Reports/Enforcement Actions (3 Years)	Up through Apr. 2025
Transfers/Succession of Operator	Ok 2016
Temporary Cessation Notification	NA
Reclamation Cost Estimate	RN-8
<b>CERTIFICATIONS</b>	
Pond Certifications	OK
Annual Certifications for Impoundments	2024
Fill Certifications for Excess Spoil or Underground Development Waste	NA
• Quarterly Inspections	NA
• Compaction Testing	NA
• Final Certification	NA
Coal Processing Waste Banks	NA
Haul Road Certifications	Ok
Access Road Certifications	NA

**HYDROLOGIC RECORDS**

NPDES Permit	**2021
NPDES Records	1 <sup>st</sup> Q. 2025
Stormwater Management Plan	Ok 2019
SPCC Plan	NA
MSHA Pond Inspections	NA
	NA
State Engineer's Pond Inspection	
Quarterly Pond Inspections	1 <sup>st</sup> Q. 2024
Annual Hydrology Reports	2024
• Ground Water Monitoring	Ok
• Surface Water Monitoring	OK
• Spring & Seep Monitoring	OK
• Mine Water Discharge Monitoring	Ok
• Mine Inflow Study	NA
• Water Consumption Records	OK
Well Permits	OK

**BLASTING RECORDS**

Blasting Publication	NA
Blasting Records (3 years)	OK
ATFE Explosives Permit	NA
Blasting Variances	NA
Pre-Blast Surveys	OK

**ADDITIONAL RECORDS (specify)**


COMMENTS: \* New Certificate of Liability Insurance will be added to the permit when ERMN Receives a copy.

\*\* ERMN has applied for CDPS permit (3/9/2021)

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