



STATE OF
COLORADO

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

DRMS's SL 8 Inspection Seneca IIW

1 message

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

Mon, Jun 23, 2025 at 1:41 PM

To: "Kawcak, Miranda" <MKawcak@peabodyenergy.com>, Robin Reilley - DNR <robin.reilley@state.co.us>

Cc: Daniel Mackinnon <dmackinnon@osmre.gov>, "Cummings, Thomas F" <tcummings@blm.gov>, "Ebert - DNR, Jared" <jared.ebert@state.co.us>

Bcc: takasugi@cox.net, Chuck Armbruster <realestate@chuckarmbruster.com>

Dear Colleagues,

Please find the above referenced inspection report for the SL8 bond release at the Seneca IIW site. Thank you all for your participation and helpful insights. Please direct any questions that you may have to me, I'm available to work them out.

Best Regards

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

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InspectionSeneca_sl8_2025.pdf

2460K



COLORADO

Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety


Department of Natural Resources

5 June 2025

PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C1982057 Mine Name: Seneca IIW Mine Operator: Seneca Property LLC Operator Address: Ms Miranda Kawcak 29515 Routt County Road No. 27 Oak Creek, CO 80467	County: Routt Operation Type: Surface Permit Status: Permanent Cessation Ownership: Private Operator Representative Present: Miranda Kawcak
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) This report was issued electronically from the Divisions' Denver Office.	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: June 5, 2025 Inspection Start Time: 1:00 PM Inspection End Date: June 5, 2025 Inspection End Time: 04:15 PM		Inspection Type: Coal Partial Inspection Inspection Reason: Surety Release Req Weather: Clear	
Joint Inspection Agency: Jared Ebert, DRMS Dan Mackinnon, OSM Tom Cummings, BLM		Joint Inspection Contacts: MS. Takasugi, Mr. Armbuster	
Post Inspection Agency: None		Post Inspection Contacts:	
Inspector(s): Robin Reilley, M.S. GISP	Inspector's Signature: 		Signature Date: June 23, 2025

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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

Y - Backfill & Grading

NA - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

NA - Explosives

R - Fish & Wildlife

R - Hydrologic Balance

R - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Other

NA - Processing Waste

R -Roads

R - Reclamation Success

R - Revegetation

R - Subsidence

R - Slides and Other Damage

NA - Support Facilities On-site

R - Signs and Markers

NA - Support Facilities Not On-site

NA - Special Categories Of Mining

NA - Topsoil

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 8

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 4

COMMENTS

This was a partial inspection of the Seneca IIW Mine, CI 982057, operated by Seneca Property LLC. The inspection comprised a partial phase II and III bond release (SL8) inspection. The weather was partly cloudy with an afternoon deluge of 20 minutes with temperatures ranging from 65 to 75 degrees F. Due to the impending rain shower the inspection began at Pond 17, the most southerly location of the site. From there we worked our way north finishing at Pond 5.

The ground was dry, even after the rainstorm. The inspection was conducted, the images and report prepared by me, Robin Reilley of the DRMS. Present at the inspection were:

- Miranda Kawcak of Seneca Coal Co
- Dan Mackinnon with the Office of Surface Mining (OSM)
- Tom Cummings BLM
- Jared Ebert DRMS
- Ms. Tagasuki and Mr. Armbuster; Landowners
- and myself; Robin Reilley with the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety (DRMS).

SL8 proposes a release comprising 107.9 acres of livestock grazing and wildlife habitat as a partial phase I, II and III bond release for termination of jurisdiction. The release comprises 29.6 acres of phase I, II, and III release and 78 acres of phase II and III release of private, federal and state lands.

Permanent features requested in the application include the shop and surrounding area (approximately 2.3 acres), water well and well house located at the shop, power lines and substation, all ten fenced shrub plots, sediment ponds, stock ponds roads, and miscellaneous fences. All stock tanks have received permanent status approval from the State Engineer. The six NPDES outfalls as indicated in Table I below will also be permanent. Their release is contingent upon State Engineer's determination and on achieving phase II release in the associated parcels.

INSPECTION:

No adequacy items were observed by anyone participating in the inspection.

GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE:

Main haul roads were dry and in good repair. No offsite air quality issues or hydrologic impacts were observed at the time of inspection. Reclamation and vegetation appeared in good condition. Vegetation appeared well established and verdant at the time of inspection representing a diversity of desirable species. No expanses of bare ground or significant weed infestations were noted at time of inspection. Ponds and drainage ways appeared to be functioning adequately at the time of inspection.

During the review of the vegetation data and compliance with standards prior to the inspection, the vegetation sampling methodology and the meeting of permit standards was found to be in compliance with Rule 4.15.11(1) and the permit application.

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).

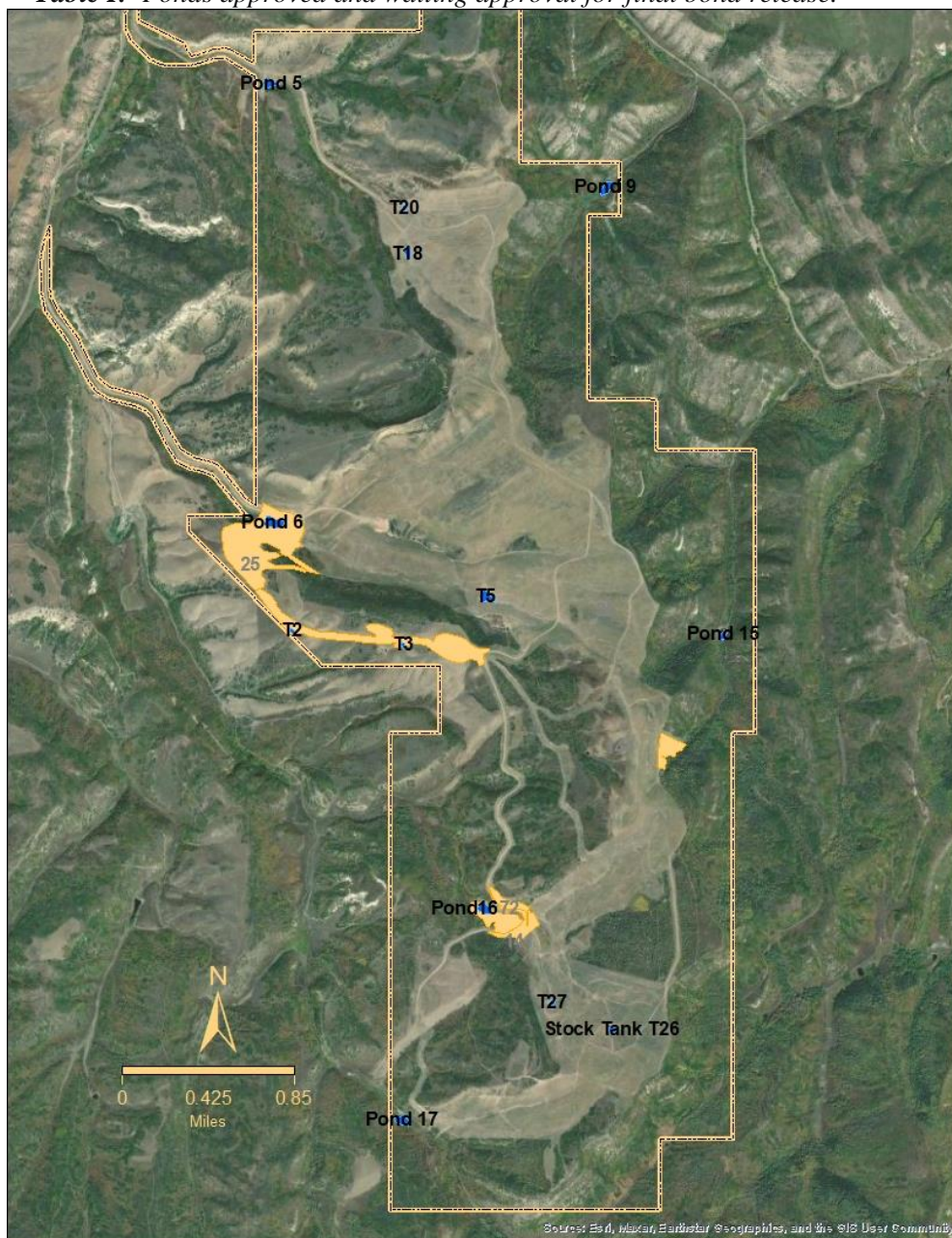
- Roads in and around the facilities were found to be in good repair and functioning adequately.
- A couple of steep sections showed some roughness, mostly due to prior travel on soft, wet surfaces.
- No standing water was noted on any roads at the time of inspection.
- Ditches were functioning adequately.

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Table I Permanent Pond Designation List

	Approved by DRMS/ State Engineer	
Pond 05	Yes	
Pond 09	Yes	
Pond 015	Yes	
Pond 006	Awaiting approval	
Pond 016	Awaiting approval	
Pond 017	Awaiting approval	

Table I: Ponds approved and waiting approval for final bond release.

Map I: Parcels requested for release are located as shown on the map above.
Both private, Federal and State surface areas are included in the proposed release.

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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:

Unless otherwise noted pond banks, dams, spillways and drainage ways appeared stable, functioning adequately and appeared well vegetated at the time inspection. No seepage was evident through the dam out slopes at the time of inspection, nor has any seepage been observed over the years. The constructed drainages and pond outflow channels were found to be well armored and stable with established vegetation on banks and grasses taking hold in the channel. The requested release areas report surface runoff to sediment ponds #6, 15, and 16.

- Pond 5 held water at the time of inspection.
- Pond 6, was discharging clear water at the time of inspection.
- Pond 15 held slightly turbid water and was discharging at the time of inspection.
- Pond 16 was receiving inflow from the spring fed system above and was discharging clear water at the time of inspection. Vegetation was well established on banks and a growth of whitetop was prevalent on the north bank. The white top along the north bank requires remediation.
- Pond 17 was discharging at the time of inspection.

SLIDES and OTHER DAMAGE- Rule 4.12

The site, in the past, has experienced soil movement in the form of slumps and slides. At the time of inspection no evidence of recent new movement was observed and historic slide areas appeared stable.

REVEGETATION - Rule 4.15 General Requirements 4.15.1

Vegetation on the few requested for release was overall diverse, healthy, with well established. *Elymus cinereus* (Great basin wild rye), *Agropyron smithii* (western wheatgrass), *Symphoricaropos* (snowberry), *Artemisia alnifolia* (silver sage), *Ericameria nauseosa* (rubber rabbitbrush), *Acer negundo* (boxelder), *Rosa woodsia* (woods rose), *Achillea millefolium* (western yarrow), *Medicago saliva* (alfalfa), *Melilotus officinalis* (yellow clover), *Linum lewisii* (lewis flax. Numerous other desirable species were noted throughout the inspection comprising a mix of forbs, perennials grasses and shrubs.

Weeds noted comprised small patches of white top and thistles. The presence of weeds can be associated with the cattle grazing occurring on the site and appears not to negatively impact the reclamation success. Weed treatment was evident throughout the site. All parcels exhibited healthy and diverse vegetation. No extensive areas devoid of vegetation or expansive areas of weeds were noted at the time of inspection with the exception of small areas instances noted above.

RECLAMATION SUCCESS

Along the haul road, inside tree plots and around the ponds vegetation was well established comprising grasses, perennials, forbs and shrubs indicative of the seed mix provided in the permit document, exhibiting minimal weeds a diversity of species and outstanding cover.

POST MINING LAND USE - Rule 4.16

Post mining land use of livestock grazing and wildlife habitat is adequately achieved with the mix of shrubs, forbs and grasses observed. Also observed throughout the bond release block was evidence of browsing activity from both livestock and wildlife.

PROTECTION of FISH, WILDLIFE and ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES-Rule 4.17

Numerous waterfowl as well as raptors and other birds were observed.

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ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

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

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo1: Pond 17, slightly turbid.

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Photo2: Pond 16 discharging clear water. There is a growth of whitetop along the north bank of the pond.



Photo 3: Pond 16 drainage way, functioning properly..

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Photo 4: Steep slide slope above pond 15 exhibiting stable and well established vegetation comprised of a mix of grasses and forbs. The slide has been remediated, and the area has been stable for years.



Photo5: The Shop, a permanent facility.

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Photo 6: Vegetation on the slope below the shop comprised of various grasses and forbs.



Photo 7: Pond 6 and associated slump. The slump has been stable and slowly revegetating over the years.

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Photo 8: Pond 6 drainage way and discharge culvert discharging clear water.



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Photo 9: Pond 5 drainage way and discharge culvert, a small area of whitetop is present.



Photo 10: Pond 15, discharging slightly turbid water.



Photo 11: Seneca IIW mine ID sign at the main entrance from the county road.

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