



STATE OF
COLORADO

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C1980007, West Elk Mine, June Inspection Report

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To: "Munz, Robert" <RobertMunz@coreresources.com>
Cc: "Stafford, Natalie" <NatalieStafford@coreresources.com>

Mon, Jul 7, 2025 at 12:57 PM

Attached

Leigh Simmons
Environmental Protection Specialist



COLORADO
Division of Reclamation,
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Department of Natural Resources

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INSP-REPORTC_C1980007_LDS_07072025114349.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: Natalie Stafford |
| Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) | |

INSPECTION INFORMATION

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| Inspection Start Date: June 24, 2025 Inspection Start Time: 09:30 Inspection End Date: Inspection End Time: | | Inspection Type: Coal Complete Inspection Inspection Reason: Normal I&E Program Weather: Clear | |
| Joint Inspection Agency: None | | Joint Inspection Contacts: | |
| Post Inspection Agency: None | | Post Inspection Contacts: | |
| Inspector(s): Leigh Simmons | Inspector's Signature:  | | Signature Date: July 7, 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

R - 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 clear and dry. The mine was active. The inspection was accompanied by Natalie Stafford 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.

GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE:

Longwall mining of the LWE16 panel was complete, and a move to the LWB26 panel was in progress. Development of the LWB26 panel was complete. A single development crew was working in the B27 head gate at around cross-cut 37.

Some contractors with Phoenix Mining were still working on development of the B27 panel, but were expected to leave the site in mid-July.

Fines were not being generated at the time of the inspection. Stockpiled fines at ST-1 on the Run-of-Mine pad had been reduced to about 35,000 tons and continued to be blended back in to coal shipments as customer specifications allow. The stockpile of fines was projected to be exhausted by the end of August.

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

No coal was being washed at the time of the inspection.

Material on the RPEE was smooth and compact, and graded so as to drain to the north west corner. The brush that had been noted in the previous inspection report had been moved uphill, and the scrap metal had been removed from the pile. The underdrain had been extended up the hill. For the pile to grow, vegetation will need to be grubbed, and topsoil will need to be stripped and stockpiled.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 8

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 4

SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

Maintenance work had begun on the prep plant, to replace worn out siding panels.

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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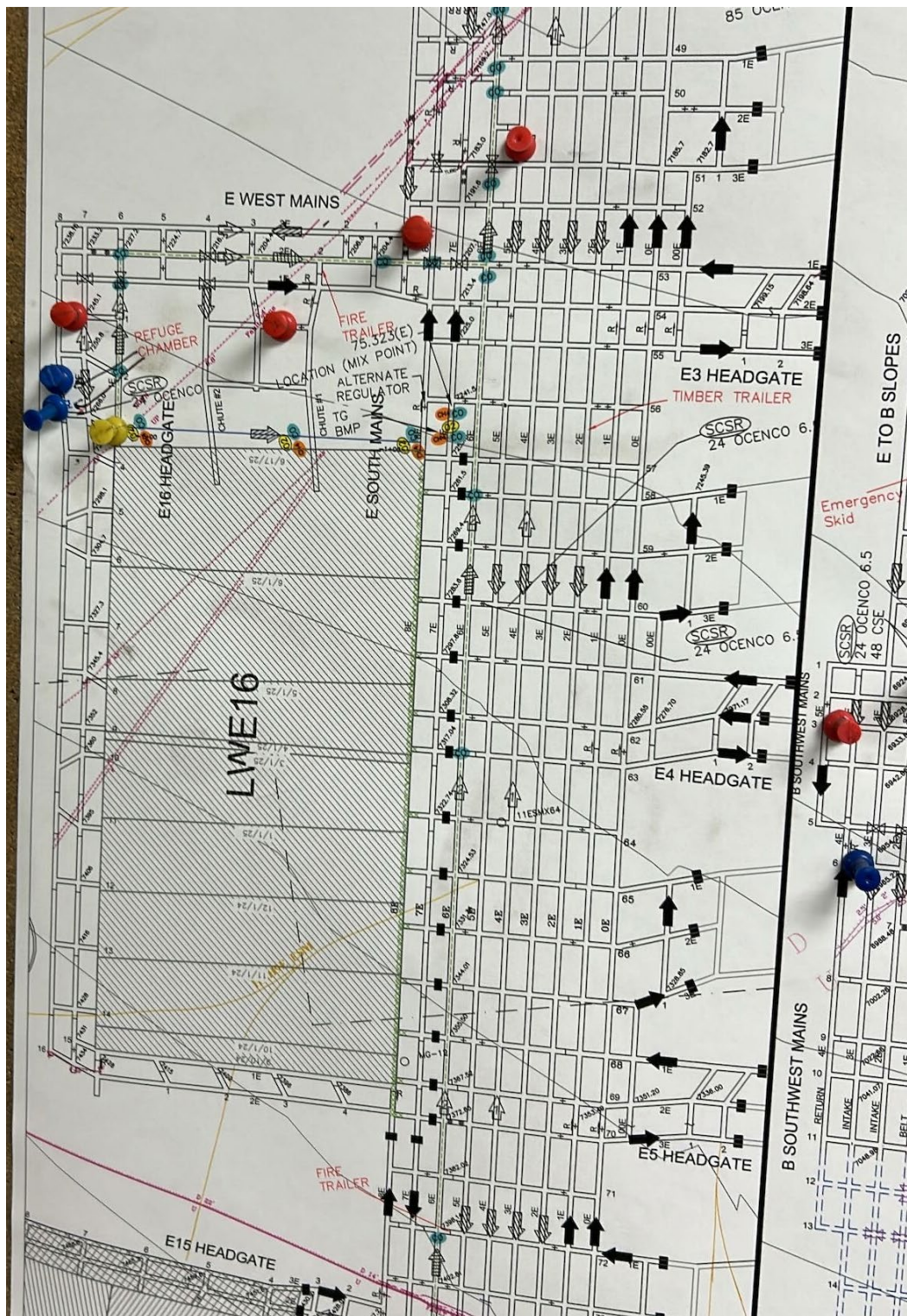
PHOTOGRAPHS

Figure 1: Mine map showing LWE16 panel

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Figure 2: Mine map showing LWB26, 27 and 28 panels



Figure 3: Maintenance work in progress on prep plant

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Figure 4: Newly extended underdrain on RPEE

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Figure 5: RPEE (eastern edge), showing vegetation and scrap metal moved



Figure 6: RPEE (western edge)

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Figure 7: Recent ditch cleaning on RPEE haul road

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Figure 8: Sediment trap on RPEE haul road

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Figure 9: Run-of-mine stockpile



Figure 10: Train loadout

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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 Fall 2024
Subsidence Monitoring Data Q1 2025
Rill & Gully Survey N/A

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

Annual Reclamation Reports 2024
Midterm Review Documents MT-09
DRMS/OSM Inspection Through 5/25
Reports/Enforcement Actions (3 Years)

Transfers/Succession of Operator Yes
Temporary Cessation Notification N/A
Reclamation Cost Estimate MT-09

CERTIFICATIONS

Pond Certifications Yes
Annual Certifications for N/A
Impoundments

Fill Certifications for Excess
Spoil or Underground
Development Waste

- Quarterly Inspections Q1 2025
- Compaction Testing Q1 2025
- Final Certification N/A

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

COMMENTS:

*1 The renewed CDPS permit is the subject of ongoing litigation. The dispute was heard in district court in May 2025, but no verdict has yet been reached. The permit has been administratively extended.

HYDROLOGIC RECORDS

NPDES Permit Exp 9/30/24, *1
NPDES Records Through 5/25
Stormwater Management Plan 2/23/2023

SPCC Plan 3/4/2022
MSHA Pond Inspections N/A
State Engineer's Pond Inspection 10/23/2018
Quarterly Pond Inspections Q1 2025

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 6/1/27
Blasting Variances N/A
Pre-Blast Surveys N/A

ADDITIONAL RECORDS
(specify)

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Monthly Air Quality Cert. | Through 11/24 |
| Rock Dust Maintenance | Through 5/25 |
| Monthly Stormwater Outfall Inspections | Through 5/25 |
| RCRA/ Haz waste | Through 5/25 |

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