



STATE OF  
COLORADO

Zuber - DNR, Rob <rob.zuber@state.co.us>

## Inspection report for Keenesburg Strip Mine

1 message

**Zuber - DNR, Rob** <rob.zuber@state.co.us>  
To: "Moline, Ben" <ben.moline@molsoncoors.com>

Thu, Oct 30, 2025 at 9:12 AM

Hello, Ben -

Please see the attached report.

Rob

Rob Zuber, P.E.  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Active Mines Program



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

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**INSP-REPORTC\_C1981028\_RDZ\_10302025.pdf**  
1734K



### PERMIT INFORMATION

<b>Permit Number:</b> C-1981-028 <b>Mine Name:</b> Keenesburg Strip Mine <b>Operator:</b> Coors Energy Company <b>Operator Address:</b> Mr. Ben Moline P.O. Box 4030 Golden, CO 80402	<b>County:</b> Weld <b>Operation Type:</b> Surface <b>Permit Status:</b> Permanent Cessation <b>Ownership:</b> Private
	<b>Operator Representative Present:</b> None
<b>Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)</b>	

### INSPECTION INFORMATION

<b>Inspection Start Date:</b> October 28, 2025 <b>Inspection Start Time:</b> 09:45 <b>Inspection End Date:</b> October 28, 2025 <b>Inspection End Time:</b> 11:15	<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>
<b>Post Inspection Agency:</b> None	<b>Post Inspection Contacts:</b>
<b>Inspector(s):</b> Robert Zuber, P.E.	<b>Inspector's Signature:</b>  <b>Signature Date:</b> 10/30/2025

**Inspection Topic Summary**

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

Y - Air Resource Protection  
R - Availability of Records  
NA - 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

NA - Roads  
R - Reclamation Success  
R - Revegetation  
NA - Subsidence  
Y - 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

**COMMENTS**

A complete inspection was conducted by Rob Zuber of DRMS on October 28, 2025. The weather was clear, windy, and cool (approximately 42 deg F). The ground was dry.

No Coors Energy Company (CEC) representative was present at the inspection, but Ben Moline of CEC was called via telephone at the end of the inspection. Mr. Moline indicated that the mowing that was performed at the site in the spring and summer of 2025 was done to address the large amount of cheat grass on the site.

Mr. Moline also indicated the following related to a solar project on the parcel south of the Keenesburg Strip Mine site:

- They have obtained building and grading permits from Weld County.
- They have an interconnection agreement with Xcel Energy.
- CEC will be starting construction in the next few weeks. Initial construction will be the access road, followed by grading, and finally panel installation.

References to areas in this report are based on the map from SL-11 (Bond Release No. 11).

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

The records were generally complete and well organized, but lacked the recent Division inspection reports, namely for July and September. These need to be added to the appropriate notebook.

Please see the list of records below.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 1

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2

**FISH and WILDLIFE – Rule 4.18:**

Many birds were seen around the site, including the north central part of the site and near the ponds.

**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 Pond 2 and the Dugout Pond contained no visible water; both ponds have large amounts of vegetation on their bottoms. Neither was discharging during the inspection, and there were no signs that the ponds had discharged recently. No problems were observed.

The ditch along the north boundary, which directs runoff to Sediment Pond 2, appears to be functioning well.

**GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE:**

No signs of impacts to adjacent areas were seen at the permit boundaries.

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

No erosion problems were seen on any parcels. All of the permit area was observed from a vehicle, and some areas were walked.

**REVEGETATION – Rule 4.15****Vegetative Cover; Timing:**

As noted above, large areas of the permit have been mowed to address cheat grass. These include Areas 25, 34, 37, and 42. Area 42 includes reclaimed roads and adjacent areas.

Across the site, vegetation cover was generally very good in areas that have not been mowed.

Other than cheat grass, no listed noxious weeds were identified.

**SIGNS AND MARKERS – Rule 4.02:**

The entrance sign was in place and contained the necessary information. Boundary markers were observed on all sides of the site.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 1

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2

**DOCUMENTS RECEIVED - none**

**OTHER (SPECIFY) - none**

**ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE**

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

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 1  
Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2

### **PHOTOGRAPHS**



**Area below Sediment Pond 2**



**North side of permit area, with ditch (looking west)**

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 1

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2



**Mowed vegetation in Area 42 (west of Area 26)**



**Mowed vegetation in Area 37 (north central portion of site)**

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 1

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2



**Good vegetation cover in Area 43**



**Good cover at west side of site, looking north with reclaimed area on right  
(note white permit boundary markers)**

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 1

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2



Looking south at good cover in Area 36 (reclaimed Long Term Spoil Area)



Looking north at good cover in Area 38 (south of facilities area)

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 1

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2

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

DRMS Permit	Exp. 11/3/2026	HYDROLOGIC RECORDS
Permit Application w/Revisions	yes	NPDES Permit
Findings Document	RN-08 (April 2022)	NPDES Records
Insurance Certificate	Exp. 11/1/2025	Stormwater Management Plan
Bond Document	\$687,020	SPCC Plan
Phased Bond Release	SL-12 (9/16/2024)	MSHA Pond Inspections
Documents/Findings	123008803	<b>State Engineer's Pond Inspection</b>
Air Emission Permits	Weld #1160, #386	Quarterly Pond Inspections
County Special Use Permits	NA	Annual Hydrology Reports
UG Mining Landowner Notification	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ground Water Monitoring</li> <li>• Surface Water Monitoring</li> <li>• Spring &amp; Seep Monitoring</li> <li>• Mine Water Discharge Monitoring</li> <li>• Mine Inflow Study</li> <li>• Water Consumption Records</li> </ul>
Subsidence Monitoring Reports	NA	Well Permits
Subsidence Monitoring Data	NA	
Rill & Gully Survey	NA	
Vegetation Monitoring Data	2024 ARR	
Specific Variance Approvals	NA	
Annual Reclamation Reports	2024	
Midterm Review Documents	MT-08 (4/25/2024)	
DRMS/OSM Inspection Reports/Enforcement Actions (3 Yrs)	Through June 2025	
Transfers/Succession of Operator	NA	<b>BLASTING RECORDS</b>
Temporary Cessation Notification	NA	Blasting Publication
Reclamation Cost Estimate	*1	Blasting Records (3 years)
CERTIFICATIONS		ATFE Explosives Permit
Pond Certifications	Yes	Blasting Variances
Annual Certifications for Large Impoundments	NA	
Fill Certifications for Excess Spoil or Underground Development Waste	NA	Pre-Blast Surveys
• Quarterly Inspections	NA	
• Compaction Testing	NA	
• Final Certification	NA	
Coal Processing Waste Banks	NA	<b>ADDITIONAL RECORDS (specify)</b>
Haul Road Certifications	NA	Pest and Weed report
Access Road Certifications	NA	3Q 2025

**COMMENTS:**

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\*1 RCE is \$687,020 (SL-12)

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\*2 Domestic use well and fire protection well (048289f, 24650f)

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\*3 No explosives used since 1995.**Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 1****Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2**