



STATE OF  
COLORADO

Simmons - DNR, Leigh <leigh.simmons@state.co.us>

## C1980007, West Elk Mine, December Inspection Report

**Simmons - DNR, Leigh** <leigh.simmons@state.co.us>

Wed, Dec 10, 2025 at 12:00 PM

To: "Wilczek, Jessica A." <JessicaWilczek@coreresources.com>

Cc: "Stafford, Natalie" <NatalieStafford@coreresources.com>, JoshuaThompson@coreresources.com

Please find the inspection report attached.

Leigh Simmons  
Environmental Protection Specialist



COLORADO  
Division of Reclamation,  
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[INSP-REPORTC\\_C1980007\\_LDS\\_12102025110612.pdf](#)  
5302K



### PERMIT INFORMATION

<b>Permit Number:</b> C-1980-007 <b>Mine Name:</b> West Elk Mine <b>Operator:</b> Mountain Coal Company, LLC <b>Operator Address:</b> Jessica Wilczek 5174 Highway 133 Somerset, CO 81434	<b>County:</b> Delta, Gunnison <b>Operation Type:</b> Underground <b>Permit Status:</b> Active <b>Ownership:</b> Private
	<b>Operator Representative Present:</b>  Josh Thompson
<b>Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)</b>	

### INSPECTION INFORMATION

<b>Inspection Start Date:</b> December 9, 2025 <b>Inspection Start Time:</b> 09:30 <b>Inspection End Date:</b> <b>Inspection End Time:</b>	<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>  Leigh Simmons	<b>Inspector's Signature:</b>   <b>Signature Date:</b>  December 10, 2025

**Inspection Topic Summary**

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

<b>R</b> - Air Resource Protection	N - Roads
<b>R</b> - Availability of Records	N - Reclamation Success
<b>N</b> - Backfill & Grading	N - Revegetation
<b>N</b> - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste	N - Subsidence
<b>N</b> - Explosives	N - Slides and Other Damage
<b>N</b> - Fish & Wildlife	<b>R</b> - Support Facilities On-site
<b>R</b> - Hydrologic Balance	<b>Y</b> - Signs and Markers
<b>R</b> - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan	N - Support Facilities Not On-site
<b>N</b> - Other	N - Special Categories Of Mining
<b>R</b> - Processing Waste	<b>Y</b> - 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, but with snow on the ground. The mine was active. The inspection was accompanied by Josh Thompson of Mountain Coal Company (MCC).

**AIR RESOURCE PROTECTION – Rule 4.17:**

Two new mobile flares had been brought to the site but had not yet been installed on MVBs. Necessary permitting with the Air Pollution Control Division was in progress.

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

Records were available on a public access laptop at the mine office. Details are given at the end of this report.

**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:

The damaged liner had been removed from the SG-1 pond, and work was in progress to clear accumulated snow from the pond. A new liner had been brought to the site and was expected to be installed the following day. MCC's intention was to use scraps from the new liner to patch holes in the RPE pond in the short term, until the full liner can be replaced.

**GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE:**

A new Safety Supervisor had been hired, Mike Zimmerman, filling a vacant position.

Longwall mining of the LWB26 panel was in progress at around cross cut 51 on the headgate.

Development of the B27 headgate was in progress, at around cross cut 53.

All fines that had been stockpiled at Stack Tube 5 on the Run-of-Mine coal stockpile pad had been removed. Fines placed on the LRP were still in place but would likely be removed in 2026.

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Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 2

The installation of pumpable cribbing in the B26 development workings was complete and the contractors had demobilized from the Deer Creek vent shaft pad and left the site.

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

##### Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization; Placement:

The prep plant was in operation at the time of the inspection. New processing waste was being temporarily placed on the RPE; no waste was being transported to the RPEE.

#### SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

Siding had been replaced on the prep plant, so that the plant could resume operation. One more side of the building was expected to be re-sided at some point in the future, when weather and operational conditions are suitable.

Installation of the new nitrogen generation facility was complete, MCC were waiting on a representative from the vendor, Atlas Copco, to sign off on the system and bring it into operation.

Three new MVB pads (B26-2, -3 and -4, permitted with TR-158) had been constructed by D and S Underground. Drilling of the first of two holes was in progress on the B26-2 pad; the drilling contractor was RACS. The pads were level with a berm around the edge, mud pits were also bermed. Topsoil had been stockpiled.

#### 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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**MAPS & PHOTOGRAPHS**

Figure 1: Screenshot of inspection map, showing GPS locations of three new pads (green points) overlaid on semi-transparent pad layout map approved with TR-158 and aerial image.

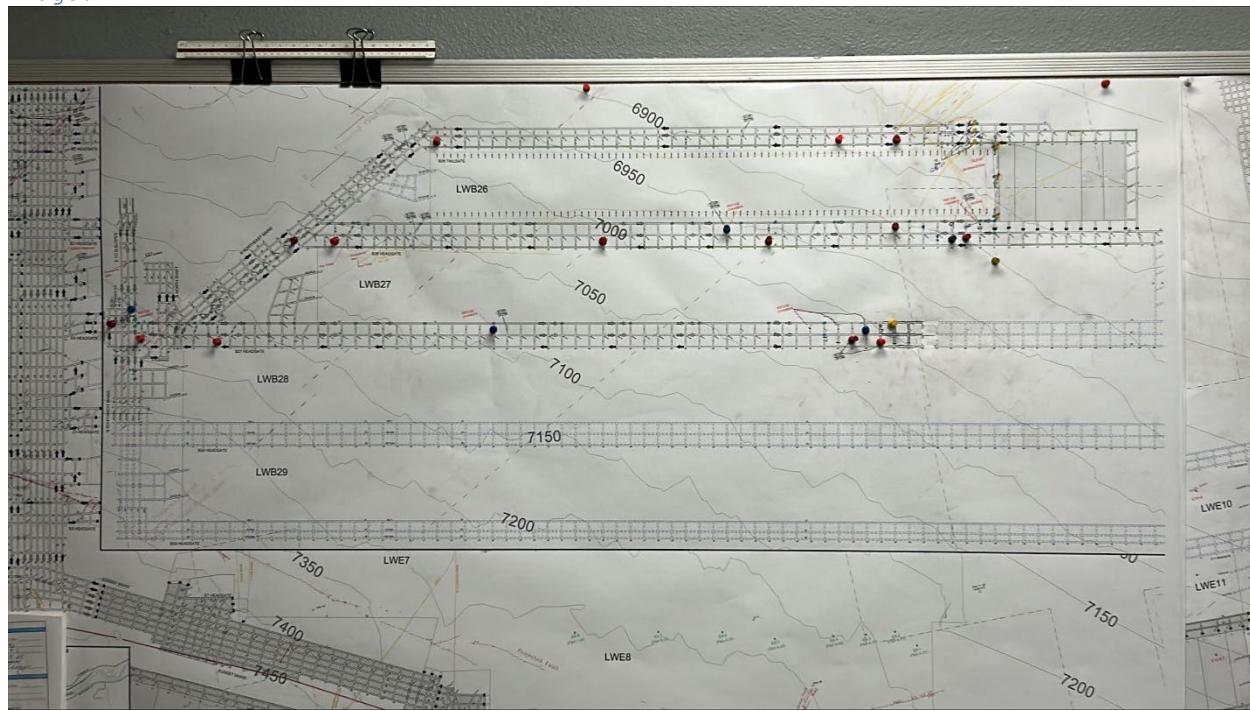


Figure 2: Mine map showing B-seam mine workings

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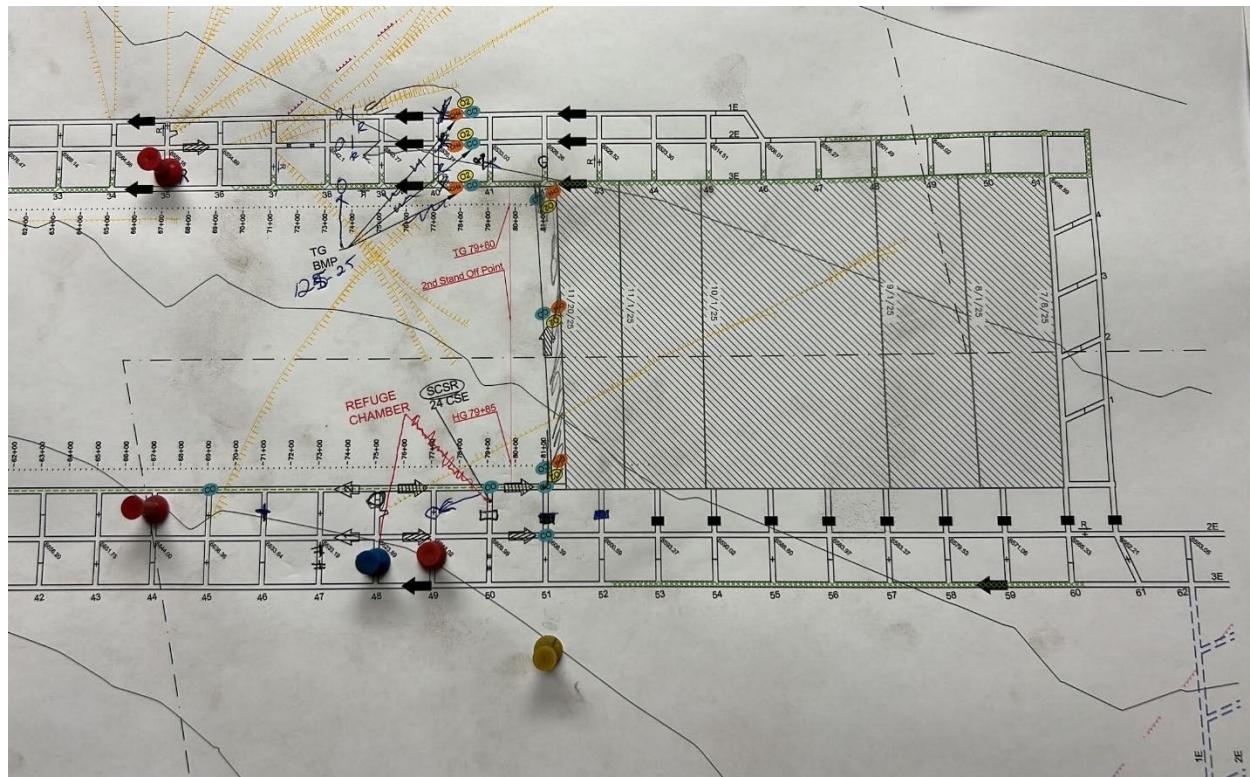


Figure 3: Mine map, showing longwall progress in B26 panel



Figure 4: Mine map showing development progress in B27 head gate

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Figure 5: Prep plant



Figure 6: SG-1 pond, being prepared for installation of new liner

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Figure 7: Processing waste being generated



Figure 8: Processing waste being temporarily placed on RPE

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Figure 9: Run-of-Mine coal stockpile pad from west, showing fines completely removed

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*Figure 10: No activity at silos*

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Figure 11: Drill rig on B26-2

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Figure 12: Mud pit on B26-2

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Figure 13: Second mud pit on B26-2 under construction

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Figure 14: Berm on B26-2

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Figure 15: Mud pit on B26-3

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Figure 16: Drilling equipment and materials staged on B26-3

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Figure 17: B26-4 pad newly constructed



Figure 18: B26-4 pad leveled and compacted

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Figure 19: Berm on B26-4 pad

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*Figure 20: Mud pit on B26-4 pad*

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**AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS**

<b>PERMIT RECORDS</b>		<b>HYDROLOGIC RECORDS</b>	
<b>DRMS Permit</b>	Expires 7/31/26	<b>NPDES Permit</b>	Exp 9/30/24, *1
<b>Permit Application w/Revisions</b>	LF	<b>NPDES Records</b>	Through
<b>Findings Document</b>	RN-8, 6/1/2022	<b>Stormwater Management Plan</b>	2/23/2023
<b>Insurance Certificate</b>	Expires 11/1/26	<b>SPCC Plan</b>	3/4/2022
<b>Bond Document</b>	\$5M & \$10M	<b>MSHA Pond Inspections</b>	N/A
<b>Phased Bond Release Documents/Findings</b>	Thru SL-17	<b>State Engineer's Pond Inspection</b>	10/23/2018
<b>Air Emission Permits*2</b>	09GU1382 10GU1130 13GU1462	<b>Quarterly Pond Inspections</b>	Q3 2025
<b>County Special Use Permits</b>	N/A	<b>Annual Hydrology Reports</b>	6/25 for 2024 water year
<b>UG Mining Landowner Notification</b>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Ground Water Monitoring</b></li></ul>	Yes
<b>Subsidence Monitoring Reports</b>	Spring 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Surface Water Monitoring</b></li></ul>	Yes
<b>Subsidence Monitoring Data</b>	Q1 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Spring &amp; Seep Monitoring</b></li></ul>	Yes
<b>Rill &amp; Gully Survey</b>	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Mine Water Discharge Monitoring</b></li></ul>	Yes
<b>Vegetation Monitoring Data Specific Variance Approvals</b>	SL-17 Stream buffer zone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Mine Inflow Study</b></li></ul>	Yes
<b>Annual Reclamation Reports</b>	2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Water Consumption Records</b></li></ul>	Yes
<b>Midterm Review Documents</b>	MT-09	<b>Well Permits</b>	Yes
<b>DRMS/OSM Inspection Reports/Enforcement Actions (3 Years)</b>	Through 11/25	<b>BLASTING RECORDS</b>	
<b>Transfers/Succession of Operator</b>	Yes	<b>Blasting Publication</b>	N/A
<b>Temporary Cessation Notification</b>	N/A	<b>Blasting Records (3 years)</b>	N/A
<b>Reclamation Cost Estimate</b>	MT-09	<b>ATFE Explosives Permit</b>	Expires 6/1/27
<b>CERTIFICATIONS</b>		<b>Blasting Variances</b>	N/A
<b>Pond Certifications</b>	Yes	<b>Pre-Blast Surveys</b>	N/A
<b>Annual Certifications for Impoundments</b>	N/A		
<b>Fill Certifications for Excess Spoil or Underground Development Waste</b>		<b>ADDITIONAL RECORDS*2 (specify)</b>	
• Quarterly Inspections	Q3 2025	<b>Monthly Air Quality Cert.</b>	Through 11/24
• Compaction Testing	Q3 2025	<b>Rock Dust Maintenance</b>	Through 5/25
• Final Certification	N/A	<b>Monthly Stormwater Outfall Inspections</b>	Through 5/25
Coal Processing Waste Banks	Yes	<b>RCRA/ Haz waste</b>	Through 5/25
Haul Road Certifications	Yes		
Access Road Certifications	Yes		

**COMMENTS:**

\*1 The renewed CDPS permit is the subject of ongoing litigation. The most recent action was the publication of the Appeals Court opinion on 7/10/2025. The permit has been administratively extended

\*2 Additional Records on the flash drive have not recently been updated

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