




COLORADO DIVISION OF RECLAMATION, MINING AND SAFETY COAL PROGRAM INSPECTION REPORT



PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1980-007 Mine Name: West Elk Mine Operator: Mountain Coal Company, LLC Operator Address: Ms Kathleen G Welt P.O. Box 591 Somerset, CO 81434	County: Delta, Gunnison Operation Type: Underground Permit Status: Active Ownership: Federal
Operator Representative Present: Jessica Loveland	
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) N/A – Report Issued from Denver Office	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: February 14, 2013 Inspection Start Time: 08:00 Inspection End Date: February 14, 2013 Inspection End Time: 13:00	Inspection Type: Coal Partial Inspection Inspection Reason: Normal I&E Program Weather: Snowing
Joint Inspection Agency: None	Joint Inspection Contacts: None
Post Inspection Agency: None	Post Inspection Contacts: None
Inspector(s): James R. Stark	Inspector's Signature:  Signature Date: 22 February 2013

Inspection Topic Summary

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

N - Air Resource Protection

N - 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

R - Roads

N - Reclamation Success

N - Revegetation

N - Subsidence

R - Slides and Other Damage

N - 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 partial inspection of the West Elk Mine conducted by Jim Stark of the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety. Jessica Loveland, with Mountain Coal, accompanied me on the inspection. The mine was actively producing coal, loading trains and hauling refuse to the refuse pile at the time of the inspection. Only the main facilities and Sylvester Gulch Facilities areas were accessible without a snow cat. The remaining areas will remain inaccessible until late spring or early summer when the snow melts. The weather was cold and cloudy and it was intermittently snowing during the inspection.

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:

- Both cells of pond MB-5E contained a small amount of water and were not discharging at the time of the inspection. There was no water flowing into either of the cells of the pond. The pond embankments were covered with snow but appeared to be stable. No erosional problems were noted. The emergency spillway was stable. West Elk does not have a permit to discharge from pond MB-5E. If they need to discharge the water is pumped to pond MB-3 and discharged through that outfall.

- Pond MB-4 contained water approximately two feet below the discharge pipe and was not discharging at the time of the inspection. The pond is a small, incised, concrete pond at the loadout. The pond remains stable. The presettling sump in front of pond MB-4 was basically full but was not discharging into pond MB-4.

- Pond SG-1 was covered with snow but appeared to only contain a small amount of water at the time of the inspection. The pond embankment was covered with snow but appeared to be stable. No erosional problems were noted on the embankment.

- Both cells of the RPE pond contained a small amount of water and were not discharging at the time of the inspection. The pond embankment was stable and no erosional problems were noted.

- Freshwater pond FW-1 contained water approximately eight feet below the full level. Freshwater pond FW-2 contained water approximately two feet below the full level. Neither pond was discharging through the overflow spillway at the time of the inspection. Both pond embankments were covered with snow but appeared to be stable. No erosional problems were noted in either pond embankment.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 5

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 3

GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE:

- West Elk was mining in the E-Seam in longwall panel E4. They were almost to cross-cut 58 at approximately station 110+20.
- Development work continues in the longwall panel E5 headgate. The development mining was at cross-cut 46 at approximately station 86+00.
- There have been no changes in the longwall panel E6 headgate development or the E-South Mains development.
- Based on the map in the operations area in the basement of the main office building, mining appears to be progressing as permitted and shown on approved permit Map 51 - E-Seam Projected Operations.

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

- The LRP was covered with snow but appeared to remain stable at the time of the inspection. There were no erosional problems noted on the LRP.
- The RPE was well graded and stable at the time of the inspection. The pile appeared to have positive drainage as there was no water pooled on the surface of the pile. The pile was not active at the time of the inspection. There were several excavators and articulated trucks parked on the pile.
- The operator was actively hauling, dumping and spreading refuse on the RPEE at the time of the inspection. They are still working on the third lift of the pile. The pile was a bit muddy and sloppy due to melting snow but appeared to be stable and have positive drainage, with no visible water pooling on the surface of the pile. There was a large pile of colluvial material in the center of the lift that was being worked into the refuse and compacted. Stability designs allow for refuse to be placed on the colluvial material but some of this material needs to be removed to allow for the pile to have its required capacity. While most of this material is being moved to the subsoil stockpiles, some of it is being worked into the refuse. Current refuse pile compaction testing shows that the minimum 90% compaction requirement is being met even with the inclusion of this colluvial material.

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 main mine access/haul road is a paved road. The road was stable and well maintained.
- The access/haul road to the Sylvester Gulch facilities area was covered with some packed snow. The road was stable and well maintained and no ruts or erosional problems were noted on the road.
- HR-1 to the RPEE was a bit wet and muddy due to melting snow. The road was stable and well maintained and no ruts or erosional problems were observed. The operator was actively adding gravel/rock surfacing material to portions of the road.
- The roads in the facilities area to and around the coal stockpiles were all well maintained and stable at the time of the inspection. There was no rutting observed and there were erosional problems noted.
- The road to the portal bench and surrounding area was well maintained and stable at the time of the inspection. There was no rutting observed and there were erosional problems noted.

SLIDES and DAMAGE - Rule 4.12:

- The HR-1 slide remediation area was covered with snow but appeared to remain stable at the time of the inspection. There was no sliding or movement observed. West Elk has installed a series of mirrors on the slide area and continues to actively monitor the area.

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SLIDES and DAMAGE (cont.) - The ST-02 slide area was observed from across Colorado Highway 133 (at the loadout). The area appeared to be stable, with no sliding or movement observed.

DOCUMENTS RECEIVED: None

This concludes the 14 February 2013 partial inspection report for the West Elk Mine.

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ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

There are no outstanding enforcement actions at the West Elk Mine and none were taken as a result of the 14 February 2013 partial inspection.

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PHOTOGRAPHS



RPE

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RPEE rock buttress and colluvial fill – taken from across Colorado Highway 133

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Active lift of RPEE – with colluvial material pile in foreground

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RPEE active lift

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HR-1 slide area – taken from across Colorado Highway 133

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Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 3



ST-02 slide area – taken from loadout

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 5

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 3



ST-02 slide area – taken from loadout

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 5

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 3