




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



PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1996-084 Mine Name: Lorencito Canyon Mine Operator: New Elk Coal Company, LLC Operator Address: Mr Ron Thompson 12250 Highway 12 Weston, CO 81091	County: Las Animas Operation Type: Surface Permit Status: Permanent Cessation Ownership: Private
	Operator Representative Present: Ron Thompson
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: February 21, 2013 Inspection Start Time: 09:30 Inspection End Date: February 21, 2013 Inspection End Time: 12:00	Inspection Type: Coal Partial Inspection Inspection Reason: Normal I&E Program Weather: Cloudy
Joint Inspection Agency: None	Joint Inspection Contacts: None
Post Inspection Agency: None	Post Inspection Contacts: None
Inspector(s): Zach T. Trujillo	Inspector's Signature:  Signature Date: 3/5/13

Inspection Topic Summary

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

N - Air Resource Protection	R - Roads
N - Availability of Records	R - Reclamation Success
N - Backfill & Grading	N - Revegetation
R - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste	N - Subsidence
N - Explosives	N - Slides and Other Damage
N - Fish & Wildlife	N - Support Facilities On-site
R - Hydrologic Balance	R - Signs and Markers
R - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan	N - Support Facilities Not On-site
N - Other	N - Special Categories Of Mining
N - Processing Waste	N - Topsoil

COMMENTS

This was a partial inspection conducted by Zach Trujillo of Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety. Ron Thompson of New Elk Coal Company accompanied the inspection. The weather was cloudy with light snow dustings periodically through the inspection. Ground had little to now snow covering around the mine site.

EXCESS SPOIL and DEVELOPMENT WASTE – Rule 4.09

Placement; Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization:

Fills numbered 7, 8 and 9 were inspected. All fills were stable and well vegetated. As previously noted in the January inspection report, a large gully has formed along the north facing slope in the area between pond 8 and pond 9b, near the top of the drainage and should have been repaired. The gully is several feet wide and deep and **will need to be repaired by March 31, 2013.**

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:

Pond 9b was dry. Embankments were well vegetated and stable. Stated in January's inspection report, sediment had rose close to the levels of the weep holes on the primary discharge riser pipe. With no maintenance performed between January and February inspections, sediment should be removed around the riser pipe to permitted specifications. One culvert along the access road to Pond 9b is under NECC responsibilities. The culvert was clear of any sediment and debris.

Pond 9a was dry during the time of the inspection. The main ditch channels leading into Pond 9a was stable with rip rap lining. Contour ditches were also inspected. No signs of cutting or erosion was noted in either the main ditch channels or contour ditches. The riser pipe primary spill way was clear. The emergency spill way was well armored with riprap. Pond 9a embankments were vegetated and stable.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 6

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 3

Pond 7 was also dry. Main drainage channels were well armored with rip rap with no visible signs of erosional cutting. Embankments were vegetated and stable. Primary and emergency spill way were clear.

Pond 6 recently had repair work done to erosional cutting below the emergency spill way. Three sets of hay bales and rock check dams were placed as erosion mitigation. Check dams and hay bales were stable and secure. No fresh erosion and cutting were observed. Pond 6 was dry with stable embankments. Spillways were clear.

Pond 8 was also dry during the time of the inspection. Embankments and spillways were stable

Pond 5 held no water and is stable. Near the top of the natural drainage into Pond 5, maintenance was performed to mitigate erosion. Two rows of hay bales were placed near the cutting. No additional erosion appears to have occurred.

GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE:

As previously noted in the Excess Spoil and Developmental Waste section of this report and previous inspection reports, the gully formed along is in need of maintenance. **The gully will need to be repaired by March 31, 2013.**

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):

All roads were stable. No signs of fugitive dust were observed.

RECLAMATION SUCCESS - Rule 4.15, Rule 3:

Rills and gullies formed throughout the mine site will need continual monitoring and repair work as needed.

SIGNS AND MARKERS – Rule 4.02:

Mine Identification Sign was inspected with all compliance information.

DOCUMENTS RECEIVED

OTHER (SPECIFY)

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ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

No enforcement action is required with this inspection.

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PHOTOGRAPHS



Maintenance below Pond 6.



Hay bales above natural drainage to Pond 5.



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Gully between Pond 8 and Pond 9b in need of repair **by March 31, 2013.**

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