




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



PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1981-019 Mine Name: Colowyo Coal Mine Operator: Colowyo Coal Company L.P. Operator Address: Mr. Tony Tennyson 5731 State Highway 13 Meeker, CO 81641	County: Moffat, Rio Blanco Operation Type: Surface Permit Status: Active Ownership: Federal
Operator Representative Present: Kurt Blunt, Tony Tennyson	
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: March 18, 2013 Inspection Start Time: 15:30 Inspection End Date: March 20, 2013 Inspection End Time: 13:00	Inspection Type: Coal Complete Inspection Inspection Reason: Normal I&E Program Weather: Cloudy	
Joint Inspection Agency: None	Joint Inspection Contacts:	
Post Inspection Agency: None	Post Inspection Contacts:	
Inspector(s): Robert D. Zuber	Inspector's Signature: 	Signature Date: 3/24/2013

Inspection Topic Summary

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

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

A complete inspection was conducted by Rob Zuber of DRMS from March 18 – 20, 2013. Colowyo employees who participated in the inspection included Kurt Blunt and Tony Tennyson.

The part of the inspection on 3/18 included a record check in the Colowyo office. The weather was clear on 3/19 and partly cloudy on 3/20.

The ground was mostly bare, but large amount of snow and ice were encountered on some ridges.

Observed activities on-site included:

- The 114 shovel was loading trucks with overburden in the lower part of the South Taylor Pit. The trucks were hauling the soil to the West Taylor Fill.
- The 115 excavator was working on the lower part of the South Taylor Pit.
- In the West Pit trucks were being loaded with coal.
- Also, see Backfill & Grading section.

AIR RESOURCE PROTECTION – Rule 4.17:

A water truck was observed on Haul Road A.

BACKFILL and GRADING – Rule 4.14 □ Contemporaneous Reclamation 4.14.1; Approximate Original Contour 4.14.2; Highwall Elimination 4.14.1(2)(f); Steep Slopes 4.14.2, 4.27; Handling of Acid and Toxic Materials 4.14.3; Stabilization of Rills and Gullies 4.14.6:

The 102 dragline was idle in the West Pit area. The 103 dragline was casting spoil.

EXCESS SPOIL and DEVELOPMENT WASTE – Rule 4.09 □ Placement; Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization:

West Taylor Fill was observed from above and below, and no significant problems were seen. Some rills were observed.

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West Pit Fill was observed from below, and no problems were seen.

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:

Some observed ponds were not discharging: Taylor Pump Holding, Gulch A, Section 28, Gossard, Work Area, and West Pit.

The Section 28 Pond and the Work Area Pond had very small flows out of the primary spillways; this was likely from snow that blew in the flumes and riser pipes. There was almost no water in the Section 28 Pond, and the water in the Work Area Pond did not have enough water to result in a discharge.

Some observed ponds were discharging: East Taylor, West Taylor (large flow, likely from fill underdrain), Prospect, and Stoker Siding.

For all discharging ponds, no sign of pollutants was observed. No problems were found with any flumes, embankments or other structures. The flume at Gossard Pond was cleaned by Kurt Blunt during the inspection.

Kurt Blunt was observed monitoring discharges at West Taylor Pond and East Taylor Pond. The results are as follows:

- West Taylor – pH of 7.7, flow of 0.09 cfs, electrical conductivity of 2,180 uS/cm, and temp. of 4.2 C.
- East Taylor – pH of 7.8, flow of 0.01 cfs, electrical conductivity of 1,780 uS/cm, and temp. of 2.4 C.

Several sediment sumps along the lower end of Taylor Creek Road were observed, and no problems were seen. All were holding snow and/or water.

Two contour ditches were found to have blowouts: one above East Taylor Pond near the confluence of Taylor Trib Ditch and East Taylor Ditch and one in the Prospect Ditch drainage. These need to be repaired as soon as practical (avoiding further damage to reclamation).

The seep or spoil spring above East Taylor Pond was not flowing.

The lower portion of East Taylor Ditch was observed and was found to be stable. The Taylor Ditch was found to be stable. The maintenance at the bottom of the constructed portion of Prospect Ditch (including wattles) was found to be in excellent shape.

There are two low areas (resembling stock tanks) near the confluence of Taylor Trib Ditch and East Taylor Ditch. These should be monitored for erosion or other problems.

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Three culverts were inspected: K, L, and M. Culvert K was partially blocked by sediment on the upstream side. Culvert L contained a small amount of sediment on the downstream side.

GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE:

The mine was generally found to be in compliance with the mine plan.

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):

Haul Roads were in good shape. The Taylor Creek Road was in decent shape, but there was a large puddle near Sump 5.

RECLAMATION SUCCESS - Rule 4.15, Rule 3:

The area above East Taylor Pond was inspected and several small slumps and several rills were observed. The slump near the pond appears to be healing; the scarp is about 2.5 feet high. This area will continue to be monitored closely.

West Pit reclamation was observed from south (from runaway truck ramp) and from the north. No problems were observed.

East Pit reclamation was found to be in good shape.

SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

The following were inspected: South Taylor Ready Line and the Gossard Loadout. No problems were observed.

TOPSOIL – Rule 4.06 □ Removal 4.06.2; Substitute Materials 4.06.4(4); Storage and Protection 4.06.3; Redistribution 4.06.4:

The following were observed:

- In the West Pit reclamation, the two large piles below the spoil pile (Hink's Peak) were found to have no problems.
- Pile 15A was inspected from all sides, and no erosion problems were observed, but additional signs should be added. GPS was used to confirm the footprint of the pile; the map is very accurate.
- Pile 16A was inspected from the north and east sides, and no erosion problems were observed, but additional signs should be added.

Kurt Blunt and Juan Garcia of Colowyo indicated that the signs would be added soon.

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DOCUMENTS RECEIVED

- TR-95 third adequacy letter response.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

No enforcement actions were taken as a result of this inspection, and none are pending.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Slump above East Taylor Pond (east side of Taylor Trib Ditch)

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Slumps above East Taylor Pond (west side of Taylor Tributary Ditch)



Blowout of contour ditch above confluence of East Taylor Ditch and Taylor Tributary Ditch

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South Taylor Pit (looking southeast)



South Taylor Pit (looking south)

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West Taylor Pond



West Taylor Fill

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Taylor Ditch

West Pit reclamation



Topsoil Pile in West Pit reclamation

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East Pit reclamation, looking southeast



Loading coal in West Pit

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Prospect Pond embankment and primary spillway



Stoker Siding Pond embankment and flume

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West Pit spoil pile, looking south (idle 102 dragline partially visible)



West Taylor Fill – significant number of rills

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Topsoil Pile 15A – ring ditch on west side



Prospect Ditch – reach of channel where maintenance was performed in 2012

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AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS**PERMIT RECORDS**

DRMS Permit	Comment 1
Permit Application w/Revisions	yes
Findings Document	RN-05
Insurance Certificate	Exp 1/1/14
Bond Document	Comment 2
Phased Bond Release Documents/Findings	SL-05
Air Emission Permits	Comment 3
County Special Use Permits	Comment 4
UG Mining Landowner Notification	NA
Subsidence Monitoring Reports	NA
Subsidence Monitoring Data	NA
Rill & Gully Survey	May 2012
Vegetation Monitoring Data	2012 ARR and SL-05
Specific Variance Approvals	Yes, in PAP
Annual Reclamation Reports	2012
Midterm Review Documents	MT-05
DRMS/OSM Inspection Reports/Enforcement Actions (3 Years)	Thru February 2013, Nov. 2012 for OSM
Transfers/Succession of Operator	MR-113
Temporary Cessation Notification	NA
Reclamation Cost Estimate	SL-05, TR-98
CERTIFICATIONS	
Pond Certifications	yes
Annual Certifications for Impoundments	NA
Fill Certifications for Excess Spoil or Underground Development Waste	Comment 5
• Quarterly Inspections	yes
• Compaction Testing	NA
• Final Certification	NA
Coal Processing Waste Banks	NA
Haul Road Certifications	yes
Access Road Certifications	NA

HYDROLOGIC RECORDS

NPDES Permit	CO 0045161
NPDES Records	Thru 4th Q 2012
Stormwater Management Plan	yes
SPCC Plan	April 2012
MSHA Pond Inspections	NA
State Engineer's Pond Inspection	NA
Quarterly Pond Inspections	Thru 4th Q 2012
Annual Hydrology Reports	2012
• Ground Water Monitoring	yes
• Surface Water Monitoring	yes
• Spring & Seep Monitoring	yes
• Mine Water Discharge Monitoring	NA
• Mine Inflow Study	NA
• Water Consumption Records	yes
Well Permits	yes

BLASTING RECORDS

Blasting Publication	Comment 6
Blasting Records (3 years)	Thru 3/18/2013
ATFE Explosives Permit	Comment 7
Blasting Variances	NA
Pre-Blast Surveys	Yes, 1997

ADDITIONAL RECORDS (specify)

COMMENTS:

1.	Expired on 11/5/2012, but Colowyo is operating under the right for successful renewal (Rule 2.08.5).
2.	Bond numbers 929528345 and 190022683 for total of \$80,517,829.
3.	Air permits 95MF1040 and 06RB1317.
4.	Rio Blanco County SUP08-10, Moffat County C-05-05
5.	Through 4th quarter 2012. South Taylor Fill and West Pit Fill inspected November 13, 2012.
6.	Published on 12/10/12 and 12/13/12.
7.	Permit 5-CO-103-20-3E-12055.

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