




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



PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1981-022 Mine Name: Elk Creek Mine Operator: Oxbow Mining, LLC Operator Address: Mr. Jim Kiger P.O. Box 535 3737 Highway 133 Somerset, CO 81434	County: Delta, Gunnison Operation Type: Underground Permit Status: Active Ownership: Federal
	Operator Representative Present: Jim Kiger
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: April 25, 2013 Inspection Start Time: 10:00 Inspection End Date: April 25, 2013 Inspection End Time: 16:00		Inspection Type: Coal Complete Inspection Inspection Reason: Normal I&E Program Weather: Clear	
Joint Inspection Agency: None		Joint Inspection Contacts:	
Post Inspection Agency: None		Post Inspection Contacts:	
Inspector(s): Brock F. Bowles Carla V. Demasters	Inspector's Signature:  Signature Date: April 29, 2013		

Inspection Topic Summary

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

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

COMMENTS

This was a complete inspection of the Elk Creek Mine conducted by Brock Bowles and Carla DeMasters of the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining & Safety. Jim Kiger of Oxbow Mining, LLC was present for the inspection. The weather was sunny and warm with no wind. The main facilities and parking area were well maintained. The northeast mine workings are still sealed as a result of the spontaneous combustion event that occurred in January of this year. The seals are expected to be opened sometime in May to retrieve the longwall. Exactly when the mine seal will be removed and the longwall retrieved is a decision made by MSHA and Oxbow Mining. Mine development work was being done in the fee coal area and federal coal lease area that was approved in PR-7 (Oct 2012). The Elk Creek mine ventilation fan was in operation.

AIR RESOURCE PROTECTION – Rule 4.17:

The coal stockpile was relatively small. Coal was being stacked on the pile from the mine development work during the inspection. There were no signs of fugitive dust on site or off.

AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS – Rule 5.02.4(1):

All files were available for review at the OMLLC office. See attached availability of records checklist.

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;

EXPLOSIVES – Rule 4.08

Distance Prohibitions 4.08.4; Warnings 4.08.4; Control of Adverse Effects 4.08.4:

The area around the detonation cap and explosive lockers was free and clear of debris and vegetation.

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;

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 9

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 4

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:

Ponds A, B, D and East Yard all contained water but none were discharging. Ponds C, E and F all were dry (photo 1). The ditch along the West Valley Haul road was free and clear of obstructions and straw bales were in good condition. Sediment control structures need to be replaced along the Pond C Light Use Road.

OTHER (SPECIFY):

A mine atmosphere monitoring station was set up at the Elk Creek methane drainage borehole (photo 2).

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

Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization; Placement:

The II West Waste Pile had some loose gob stacked ready for compaction (photo 3). The lower level of the gob pile appeared to be stable. The West Valley Waste Pile appeared to be stable and did not have rills or gullies. The un-decomposed plastic netting from coconut fiber erosion matting which had been used during reclamation was rolled up by the wind (photo 4).

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 roads in the main facilities area were well maintained and dry. The Bear Creek Road was well maintained below the Bear Creek Fansite and a motor-grader was working on the road. The road was very muddy above the fansite from melting snow. The Hubbard Creek Road was well maintained and passable.

RECLAMATION SUCCESS - Rule 4.15, Rule 3:

The reclaimed road for GVB-LW3-01 and GVB-LW4-03 appeared to be stable and vegetation was starting to grow (photo 5). The reclaimed road which intersects the Bear Creek Road from the south at GVB-LW10-04 appeared to be stable and vegetation was starting to grow at the intersection (photo 6). The Somerset mine portal area appeared to be stable and vegetation was starting to grow.

SIGNS AND MARKERS – Rule 4.02:

The main entrance sign was in place and contained all the required information.

OFFSITE SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04, 4.28:

The Bear Creek Fan was not operating but appeared to be sealed and contained mine atmosphere monitoring equipment.

DOCUMENTS RECEIVED: None

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

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

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PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1 – Pond C Was Dry.



Photo 2 – Mine Atmosphere Monitoring Station



Photo 3 – II West Waste Pile



Photo 4 – West Valley Fill Gob Pile



Photo 5 – Reclaimed Road to GVBLW3-01



Photo 6 – Reclaimed Road Intersecting Bear Cr.

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AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS**PERMIT RECORDS**

DRMS Permit	X-10/2013
Permit Application w/Revisions	X
Findings Document	X
Insurance Certificate	X-6/2013
Bond Document	X-6/2011
Phased Bond Release	
Documents/Findings	
Air Emission Permits	X
County Special Use Permits	X
UG Mining Landowner Notification	X
Subsidence Monitoring Reports	X
Subsidence Monitoring Data	X
Rill & Gully Survey	X

Vegetation Monitoring Data	
Specific Variance Approvals	
Annual Reclamation Reports	X-2012
Midterm Review Documents	X-2012
DRMS/OSM Inspection	X-3/2013
Reports/Enforcement Actions (3 Years)	
Transfers/Succession of Operator	X
Temporary Cessation Notification	
Reclamation Cost Estimate	X

CERTIFICATIONS

Pond Certifications	X
Annual Certifications for Impoundments	X
Fill Certifications for Excess Spoil or Underground Development Waste	
• Quarterly Inspections	X-4 th Quarter
• Compaction Testing	X-4 th Quarter
• Final Certification	
Coal Processing Waste Banks	
Haul Road Certifications	X
Access Road Certifications	X

HYDROLOGIC RECORDS

NPDES Permit	X-2009*
NPDES Records	X
Stormwater Management Plan	X
SPCC Plan	X
MSHA Pond Inspections	
State Engineer's Pond Inspection	
Quarterly Pond Inspections	X-4 th Quarter
Annual Hydrology Reports	X-2012
• Ground Water Monitoring	X
• Surface Water Monitoring	X
• Spring & Seep Monitoring	X
• Mine Water Discharge Monitoring	X
• Mine Inflow Study	X
• Water Consumption Records	X
Well Permits	X

BLASTING RECORDS

Blasting Publication	
Blasting Records (3 years)	
ATFE Explosives Permit	X
Blasting Variances	
Pre-Blast Surveys	

ADDITIONAL RECORDS

(specify)	

COMMENTS: * NPDES Admin Extension Letter – May 31, 2009

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