




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: None
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) None – Issued from Denver Office	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: April 19, 2013 Inspection Start Time: 12:24 Inspection End Date: April 19, 2013 Inspection End Time: 12:27		Inspection Type: Aerial Inspection Inspection Reason: Normal I&E Program Weather: Clear	
Joint Inspection Agency: None		Joint Inspection Contacts: None	
Post Inspection Agency: None		Post Inspection Contacts: None	
Inspector(s): James R. Stark Harry B. Ranney	Inspector's Signature:  Signature Date: 9 May 2013		

Inspection Topic Summary

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

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

COMMENTS

This was an aerial inspection of the West Elk conducted by Jim Stark of the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety. The photographs were taken by Harry Ranney with the Division. The weather was clear and sunny and the ground appeared to be mostly dry.

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 east cell of the RPE Pond was full and there was a small amount of water in the west cell. Both pond embankments were well vegetated and stable and no erosional problems were noted. West Elk is currently using the water from the RPE pond in the processing plant. They have a pump on the edge of the east cell and pump water through overland pipe.

- Both cells of pond MB-5E contained water that appeared to be several feet below the emergency spillway elevation. The pond was not discharging at the time of the inspection. The pond embankments were well vegetated and stable and no erosional problems were noted.

Pond SG-1 contained water several feet below the primary spillway and did not appear to be discharging at the time of the inspection. The pond embankment was well vegetated and stable and no erosional problems were noted.

- Both freshwater ponds, FW-1 and FW-2, contained water. The water level in both ponds was below the overflow level. Both pond embankments were well vegetated and stable and no erosional problems were noted.

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

- The LRP was well vegetated and stable at the time of the inspection and no erosional problems were noted. The prep plant and material storage areas on the LRP were in good condition and stable.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 7

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PROCESSING WASTE (cont.) - The reclaimed slopes on the RPE were well vegetated and stable and no erosional problems were noted. There were numerous piles of uncompacted, ungraded refuse but the operator appeared to be doing work on grading and compacting this refuse. They were also loading some of this refuse and hauling it to the RPEE.

- The first two lifts of the RPEE were well graded and stable and no erosional problems were noted. West Elk is waiting to cover these two lifts until they determine if they can place more refuse here. The third lift also appears to be complete with the exception of the haul road, which runs through this lift. The third lift is also stable and well graded. West Elk was currently working on dumping, spreading and compacting refuse on the fourth lift. There were a few small piles of refuse that need to be spread and compacted but they were actively working the pile. The underdrain extends up the draw approximately 50 feet from where refuse is being spread and compacted. As the pile progresses up the draw, West Elk completes additional sections of the underdrain. The Rock and colluvial buttresses of the RPEE were also stable at the time of the inspection.

SLIDES and DAMAGE - Rule 4.12:

- The ST-02 slide area remains stable at the time of the inspection. A few small pieces of the coconut matting have moved but there was no movement of the material below. There were no erosional problems noted on the ST-02 slide area.

- The HR-1 slide area had some movement of both the coconut fiber matting and the underlying topsoil. Some of this material washed down to the base of the slide remediation area. None of the topsoil material went off site and none of the material went into the RPE pond. The movement was only on the surface and the remediated slide area remains stable. West Elk will salvage this material and either stockpile it or replace it. This will be done once the conditions on the ground allow, as it is currently very wet, with snow and rain still falling.

- A small slide has occurred south of the facilities area just below the large material storage bench below the mine portals. The slide is less than one acre in area. West Elk will remediate this slide once conditions on the ground allow.

DOCUMENTS RECEIVED: N/A – Aerial Inspection

This concludes the 19 April 2013 aerial 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 issued as a result of the 19 April 2013 aerial inspection.

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PHOTOGRAPHS



RPE

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Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 3



RPEE

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 7

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 3



Facilities Area

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 7

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 3



HR-1 Slide area

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