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

PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1981-018 **Mine Name:** Deserado Mine **Operator:** Blue Mountain Energy, Inc **Operator Address:** Mr Scott Wanstedt 3607 County Road 65 Rangely, CO 81648	**County:** Rio Blanco **Operation Type:** Underground **Permit Status:** Active **Ownership:** Federal
	Operator Representative Present: Scott Wanstedt
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: May 22, 2013 **Inspection Start Time:** 09:30 **Inspection End Date:** May 22, 2013 **Inspection End Time:** 13:30	**Inspection Type:** Coal Partial 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):	**Inspector's Signature:**	**Signature Date:**
Janet H. Binns Zach T. Trujillo		5/28/13

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
R - Explosives
N - Fish & Wildlife
R - Hydrologic Balance
N - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan
R - Other
R - Processing Waste
Y - Roads
R - Reclamation Success
Y - Revegetation
N - Subsidence
N - Slides and Other Damage
N - Support Facilities On-site
R - Signs and Markers
N - Support Facilities Not On-site
N - Special Categories Of Mining
R - Topsoil

COMMENTS

This was a partial inspection of the Deserado Mine by Zach Trujillo and Janet Binns of Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (DRMS) conducted on May 22, 2013. Scott Wanstedt of Blue Mountain Engergy, Inc. (BME) accompanied the inspection. The weather was cear and dry. Temperatures for the day were around eighty degrees fahrenheit.

EXPLOSIVES – Rule 4.08
Distance Prohibitions 4.08.4; Warnings 4.08.4; Control of Adverse Effects 4.08.4:

The explosives storage area is free of vegetation around the storage bins. This area has the appropriate signs posted.

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:
DP-1 Pond; the hole on the embankment has been repaired as of April and remains stable. DP-1 was not discharging.

A damp spot was observed on the hillside below the process water pond (PP-2). Water was seeping into the ditch. This site should be monitored to observe if it dries up during the season.

The B-Seam Mine Dewatering pond system held water up to the 6th cell. The 1st cell was cleaned prior to the inspection. No discharge from the pond has occurred to the date of this inspection.

The culvert just south of the refuse bin and truck loadout needs to be cleaned out. The inlet was roughly 50% full

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of sediment.

The culvert outlet beneath the access road to the Moon Lake Substation needs to be cleaned along the outlet. The outlet was roughly 75% full of sediment.


Culvert south of truck loadout.


Culvert below access road to Moon Lake Substation.


Runoff created by damp section below Pond PP-2.

OTHER (SPECIFY):

The rock dust tank leak previously noted in the April inspection report has been repaired.

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

Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization; Placement:
The winter stockpile of refuse has been spread and compacted. Additional spreading and compacting of refuse on Refuse Pile 5A was being conducted at the time of the inspection.

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RECLAMATION SUCCESS - Rule 4.15, Rule 3:

East portal reclamation vegetation is good along the reclaimed access road. At the reclaimed East Portal area there is an increase in Cheatgrass as well as greasewood, 4-wing saltbrush, Forage kochia, and Russian wildrye. The Inspector discussed options for management of the Cheatgrass in portal area with the operator. Implementation of BME's weed management plan in specific spots is an option. The Division has prepared a technical bulletin regarding management of Japanese brome and Cheatgrass. This bulletin is available on the Division's website: http://mining.state.co.us/Programs/Coal/Pages/HelpfulLinks.aspx "Data/Documents" "Cheatgrass Technical Bulletin".

Other than the Cheatgrass in specific areas, the East portal reclamation appears stable and the vegetation well established.

East portal reclamation looking to NW.

East portal reclamation looking to SE

SIGNS AND MARKERS – Rule 4.02:
All topsoil piles were properly marked with designating signs.

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 D portal area topsoil stockpile was well vegetated. The dominant vegetation is composed of bunch grasses (Crested wheatgrass and Russian wildrye) with occasional Cheatgrass. The Cheatgrass presence is minimal. The topsoil stockpile is stable with no obvious erosion. The vegetative cover on the D Portal topsoil pile is healthy and effective.

RP 2/3 Topsoil pile has fairly consistent stand of Cheatgrass on the north east side. Scott said he sprayed Roundup on this area in the spring 8-10 years ago. The Cheatgrass came back. The southern and western portions of the pile have a good wheatgrass stand. The north and east extent of the RP 2/3 topsoil stockpile is predominately Cheatgrass. The operator said he has had success seeding forage Kochia into Cheatgrass stands.

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Subsoil stockpile RP-5A (map 77A) had a good stand of perennial grasses. No problems were noted on the RP-5A subsoil stockpile.

Topsoil Stockpile RP-5A exhibited a poor stand of vegetation predominately composed of Cheatgrass. However, the Cheatgrass provided vegetative cover and litter cover. The pile was not eroding. Very little cover was attributed to perennial grasses. The out slopes of Topsoil Stockpile RP-5A rather bare, though not eroding.

Subsoil stockpile RP-4 has excellent perennial grass cover, composed predominately of wheatgrasses and Russian wildrye.

Topsoil stockpile RP-4 west side has good perennial cover. The east side of this pile is mostly Cheatgrass, (photo)

Subsoil Stockpile RP-2/3 has a fair cover of bunchgrass. Subsoil Stockpile -2/3 did have some cheat in open areas between the bunchgrasses. There is a small amount of sediment transport in these open areas, though minimal. Western wheatgrass and Russian wildrye were prevalent on this stockpile.

The small topsoil pile by the red diesel tank adjacent to the west vent shaft is essentially void of vegetation. Since the diesel fuel tank is in such close proximity, BME needs to maintain noncombustible area around Tank. Instead of establishing vegetation on this topsoil stockpile so close to the fuel storage area, moving the soil stockpile further from the fuel storage area, reshaping to a gentler slope and reseeding this stockpile would protect the topsoil resource. A Minor Revision should be submitted to show a proposed relocation. The small topsoil stockpile near the uncompleted shaft is also mostly bare along with Cheatgrass. If this topsoil pile is not going to be redistributed in the near future, stabilization measures should be employed on this pile as well. (Rule 4.06.3(2)(a)(i) and (ii), and 4.06.3(2)(b))

The prevalence of Cheatgrass has been the topic of discussion on many sites throughout the state. The Division recognizes the pervasiveness of cheatgrass throughout the region on mine lands and on undisturbed lands outside of mining areas. Cheatgrass (Bromus tectorum) is found on the State Noxious Weed C list. As such, it is not a species requiring eradication. The Division is concerned that topsoil (and subsoil) stockpiles that have predominately Cheatgrass stands do not have an effective cover of non-noxious, annual or perennial plants (Rule 4.06.3(2)(a)(i)). BME needs to implement the approved weed management plan, and establish an interim stand of protective vegetative cover on these soil stockpiles. Although BME is approved to use subsoil as a topdressing upon reclamation, protection of approved plant growth media is required even if the material is not defined as "topsoil" (Rule 4.06.2(1)). These older topsoil and subsoil stockpiles have a cover of litter that aids in stabilization. Interseeding into this litter may allow establishment of effective cover without disturbing too much of the litter. Many of the soil stockpiles were established 20 or more years ago. It would be considered regular maintenance to interseed into the portions of the stockpiles that exhibit poor perennial vegetative cover.

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Topsoil stockpile RP-2/3

east slope of Subsoil stockpile RP-5A

Top of topsoil stockpile RP-5A

Outslope (south) of topsoil stockpile RP-5A

Eastern slope of subsoil stockpile RP-4

Outslope of topsoil stockpile RP-4

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Western slope of Subsoil stockpile RP-2/3

Open ground between bunch grasses on Subsoil RP-2/3 Some sediment transport down slope is visible.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

No enforcement actions are needed as a result of this inspection.

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