




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



PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1981-028 Mine Name: Keenesburg Strip Mine Operator: Coors Energy Company Operator Address: Mr. Benjamin Moline P.O. Box 4030 Suite 400 Golden, CO 80401	County: Weld Operation Type: Surface Permit Status: Active Ownership: Private
	Operator Representative Present: Danny Kipp
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: May 30, 2013 Inspection Start Time: 09:00 Inspection End Date: May 30, 2013 Inspection End Time: 11:30	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	Inspector's Signature:  Signature Date: June 3, 2013

Inspection Topic Summary

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

R - Air Resource Protection

R - Availability of Records

R - Backfill & Grading

N - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

N - Explosives

R - Fish & Wildlife

R - Hydrologic Balance

N - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Other

N - Processing Waste

R - Roads

R - Reclamation Success

R - 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

N - Topsoil

COMMENTS

INTRODUCTION - This was a partial inspection of the Keenesburg Mine conducted by Brock Bowles of the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety. Danny Kipp of Coors Energy Company was present for the inspection. Weather conditions were sunny and warm with a light breeze. The mine recieved approximately 4/10 of an inch of rain the previous day.

AIR RESOURCE PROTECTION – Rule 4.17:

No dust was generated from the mine site area including the B-Pit ash backfill area, B-Pit coverfill area, long term spoil area, area 25 reclamation and topsand stockpiles.

AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS – Rule 5.02.4(1):

All the mine records were accessible in the mine office. See attached 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:

Coal ash was stacked in the north end of the B-Pit ready for backfilling. The south side of the active B-Pit area was being covered with 6 feet of backfill material. Six foot high soil depth guage markers were in place to guide equipment operators of the correct soil depth while placing coverfill material (photo 1).

FISH and WILDLIFE – Rule 4.18:

Many bird species were observed in the trees around the sediment and permanent ponds including: Northern Oriole, Western Kingbird, Eastern Kingbird, Mourning Doves, Robins and Killdeer. In area 24, which is a phase 3 bond release area in the northeastern part of the permit boundary, there are two young chicks in a Golden eagle's nest (photo 2).

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

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 7

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 4

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 permanent sediment pond was damp but did not contain standing water. The drainage ditch along the main haul road by the permanent sediment pond was recently cleaned out and maintained (photo 3). The permanent dugout pond was mostly damp with some standing water. Cattails in the bottom of the pond were starting to sprout (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 main haul road was well maintained and passable. The haul road drainage ditch from the dugout pond to the sediment pond was recently cleaned out and maintained.

RECLAMATION SUCCESS - Rule 4.15, Rule 3:

The sides of the main access road to the mine were dense with cheatgrass. The roadsides were being mowed to control the cheatgrass during the inspection (photo 5). The pre-emergent herbicide Panoramic was applied to some areas of the mine last August to control cheatgrass. As an experiment, the undisturbed area along the west perimeter of the B-Pit was treated. The results of the application were very good (photo 6). Mr. Kipp explained that the remaining area between last years' application and the permit boundary will be treated this coming year to create a buffer between the adjacent property and the current reclamation. Other areas of the mine will be treated as well. Panoramic has been effective on both reclaimed and undisturbed parcels.

Section 31 was seeded in 2009 and Panoramic was applied in Aug 2012. There was very little cheatgrass in this parcel and the planted species looked like they were doing well (photo 7).

Section 30 was seeded in 2006 and has a dense stand of cheatgrass. Mr. Kipp said this section will get treated with the Panoramic this year (photo 8).

REVEGETATION – Rule 4.15 □ Vegetative Cover; Timing:

Some grasses are starting to sprout in Area 25 which was seeded and mulched last fall. The area does have cheatgrass and veiny doc (*Rumex venosus*) (photo 9). Veiny doc is a native species adapted to sandy soils and is not considered noxious.

SIGNS AND MARKERS – Rule 4.02:

The main entrance sign was in place and had all the required information. The topsoil stockpile sign in SAE #3, along the main access road, was missing.

DOCUMENTS RECEIVED: None

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

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

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 7

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 4

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1 – Soil Depth Markers for Coverfill



Photo 2 – Golden Eagle Chicks in Reclamation



Photo 3 – Ditch by Permanent Sediment Pond



Photo 4 – Cattails in Dugout Pond



Photo 5 – Cheatgrass on Mine Entrance Road



Photo 6 – Undisturbed Field Treated with Panoramic on Left

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 7

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 4



Photo 7 – Section 31



Photo 8 – Section 30



Photo 9 – Section 25

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 7

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 4

AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS**PERMIT RECORDS**

DRMS Permit	X-2016
Permit Application w/Revisions	X
Findings Document	X
Insurance Certificate	X-11/2013
Bond Document	X
Phased Bond Release	X
Documents/Findings	
Air Emission Permits	X
County Special Use Permits	X
UG Mining Landowner Notification	
Subsidence Monitoring Reports	
Subsidence Monitoring Data	
Rill & Gully Survey	X
Vegetation Monitoring Data	X
Specific Variance Approvals	
Annual Reclamation Reports	X
Midterm Review Documents	X
DRMS/OSM Inspection	X
Reports/Enforcement Actions (3 Years)	
Transfers/Succession of Operator	
Temporary Cessation Notification	
Reclamation Cost Estimate	X
CERTIFICATIONS	
Pond Certifications	
Annual Certifications for Impoundments	
Fill Certifications for Excess Spoil or Underground Development Waste	
• Quarterly Inspections	
• Compaction Testing	
• Final Certification	
Coal Processing Waste Banks	
Haul Road Certifications	X
Access Road Certifications	

HYDROLOGIC RECORDS

NPDES Permit	
NPDES Records	
Stormwater Management Plan	
SPCC Plan	X
MSHA Pond Inspections	
State Engineer's Pond Inspection	
Quarterly Pond Inspections	X-12/2012
Annual Hydrology Reports	X-2012
• Ground Water Monitoring	X
• Surface Water Monitoring	X
• Spring & Seep Monitoring	
• Mine Water Discharge Monitoring	
• Mine Inflow Study	
• Water Consumption Records	
Well Permits	X

BLASTING RECORDS

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

ADDITIONAL RECORDS

(specify)	

COMMENTS:

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 7Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 4