



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



PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1981-041 Mine Name: Roadside Portals Operator: Snowcap Coal Company, Inc. Operator Address: Ms. Tonya Hammond P.O. Box 1430 Palisade, CO 81526	County: Mesa Operation Type: Underground Permit Status: Permanent Cessation Ownership: Federal
	Operator Representative Present: None
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: 12:45		Inspection Type: Coal Partial 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): Michael P. Boulay Carla V. Demasters	Inspector's Signature: <i>Michael P. Boulay</i>		Signature Date: 6/4/13

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

NA - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

NA - Explosives

N - Fish & Wildlife

R - Hydrologic Balance

Y - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Other

Y - Processing Waste

Y - Roads

Y - Reclamation Success

R - Revegetation

N - Subsidence

NA - Slides and Other Damage

N - Support Facilities On-site

N - Signs and Markers

NA - Support Facilities Not On-site

NA - Special Categories Of Mining

N - Topsoil

COMMENTS

This was a partial inspection of the Roadside Portals Mine conducted on May 30, 2013 by Mike Boulay and Carla DeMasters of the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety. There was no operator representative present during the inspection and there was no activity at the site at the time of the inspection. Weather conditions were sunny and cool and ground conditions were 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 Colorado River was running higher than normal due to snowmelt runoff. Coal Creek was dry. The location of reclaimed Ponds 6, 10, and 11 at the North Portals and Pond 7 at the North Decline were inspected. All reclaimed areas are stable and no significant erosion is occurring.

REVEGETATION – Rule 4.15

Vegetative Cover; Timing:

A primary focus of this inspection was revegetation and reclamation success in light of the forthcoming bond release application to be submitted by Snowcap Coal Company. The South and North Portal Areas, North Decline and both the Greasewood and Shadscale reference areas were inspected. Photographs of these locations are included at the end of this inspection report.

The South Portals Area was dominated by a dense stand of greasewood accompanied by lesser amounts of winterfat and forage kochia (AKA prostrate kochia). Perennial grass establishment in this area was minimal.

Revegetation was in excellent condition at CRDA-1 – which had a diverse mix of shrubs, perennial forbs, and cool and warm season perennial grasses. Cover by cheatgrass in the areas of CRDA-1 seen was minimal. Revegetation

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at CRDA-2 appeared to be well established from a distance.

Vegetation at reclaimed Pond 7 was dominated by Halogeton (Colorado List C Noxious Weed) with smaller patches of cheatgrass. There was minimal presence of seeded species. To ensure compliance please manage the growth of noxious weeds at the reclaimed Pond 7 location.

Seeded plants were also not yet established at the newly reclaimed Ponds 11, 6 and 10, which had a patchy cover of weedy annual forbs and wheat introduced from the straw mulch, which covered these sites. These pond areas were all revegetated in October 2012.

Cheatgrass was present in abundance in both the Greasewood and Shadscale reference areas. Annual wheatgrass was also present in abundance in the Greasewood reference area. Annual forbs noted in the reference areas included tall tumbled mustard and stork's bill. Native thistles with white flowers (probably New Mexico thistle) were blooming in the Shadscale reference area. Evidence of heavy cheatgrass cover in previous years was present in the form of a cheatgrass litter layer on the ground in both areas.

DOCUMENTS RECEIVED

None

OTHER (SPECIFY)

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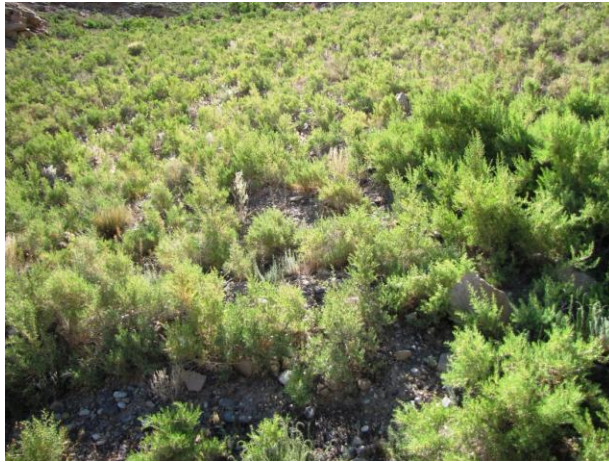
ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

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

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PHOTOGRAPHS



Reclaimed South Portal mine entries.



CRDA-1



CRDA-2

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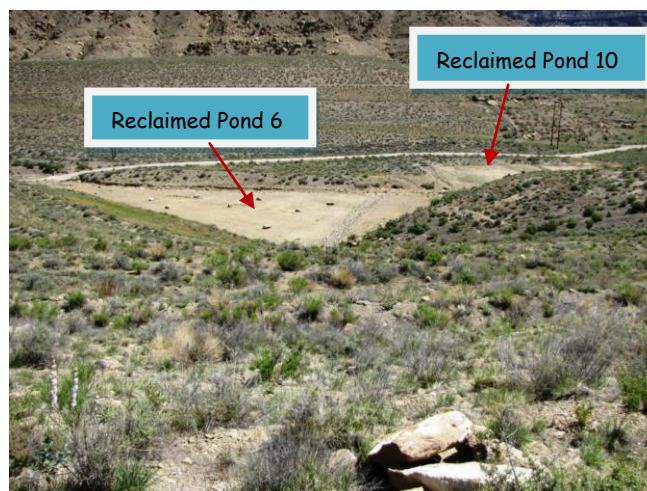
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Pond 7 - poor vegetation establishment and weed growth.



Location of reclaimed Pond 11.



Reclaimed Ponds 6 and 10.

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Greasewood Reference Area



Shadscale Reference Area

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