




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



PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1996-084 Mine Name: Lorencito Canyon Mine Operator: New Elk Coal Company, LLC Operator Address: Mr Ron Thompson 12250 Highway 12 Weston, CO 81091	County: Las Animas Operation Type: Surface Permit Status: Permanent Cessation Ownership: Private
	Operator Representative Present: Brian Wilson
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) N/A – Report issued from Denver office	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: May 23, 2013 Inspection Start Time: 13:30 Inspection End Date: May 23, 2013 Inspection End Time: 16:00	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): James R. Stark	Inspector's Signature:  Signature Date: 3 June 2013

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

R - Backfill & Grading

N - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

N - Explosives

N - Fish & Wildlife

R - Hydrologic Balance

R - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Other

R - Processing Waste

R - Roads

N - 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

This was a partial inspection of the Lorencito Canyon Mine conducted by Jim Stark of the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety. Brian Wilson, representing the New Elk Coal Company, accompanied me on the inspection. The mine has been reclaimed and is currently in the period of extended liability. The weather was warm and sunny and the ground was dry.

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:

- The entire mine site has been backfilled and regraded. All of the backfilled and regraded areas appeared to be generally stable. There was no settling observed in any of the backfilled areas. There were no slumps or slides noted in any of the backfilled areas. Finally, there was no cracking at any of the highwall or endwall locations on the site.

- There was some erosion on the slope just south of excess spoil fill 8 and the shrub/tree planting area. The erosion is minor at this point and may actually be old erosion that is healing itself. The slope is fairly well vegetated and should be visually monitored to ensure the erosion doesn't get worse.

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 perimeter ditches at excess spoil fill 9 were generally stable. There was some erosion in the ditches but they were in good condition. The contour ditches were all well vegetated and generally stable.

- The perimeter ditches at excess spoil fill 8 were stable at the time of the inspection. There was no major erosion observed in the perimeter or contour ditches at the fill. The contour ditches were well vegetated and stable.

- Pond 8-1 contained water just below the discharge point and was not discharging at the time of the inspection. The pond embankment was well vegetated and stable and no erosional problems were noted. Pond 8-2 contained a very small amount of water and was not discharging. The pond embankment was well vegetated and stable and no erosional problems were noted.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 8

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 4

HYDROLOGIC BALANCE (cont.) - Pond 006 was dry at the time of the inspection. The pond embankment was well vegetated and stable and no erosional problems were noted. The ditch flowing into the pond on the west side of the pond has been repaired and new straw bales have been placed in the pond to help control flow and sediment.

- The operator has not yet cleaned the two culverts that were noted on last month's inspection report. These culverts must be cleaned to ensure proper flow of any runoff.

GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE:

- The Lorencito Canyon Mine is in permanent cessation and no coal extraction is taking place. The only activities are reclamation and maintenance. The current operations at the mine are consistent with those that are permitted.

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

Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization; Placement:

- Excess spoil fill 9 was stable at the time of the inspection. The fill was well vegetated and there were no signs of any cracking, settling or slumping. The terrace ditches and lateral ditches were all stable as well. There was some minor rilling observed on parts of the fill but what was observed was not of major concern at this point.

- Excess spoil fill 8 was well vegetated and stable at the time of the inspection. The terrace ditches and lateral ditches were all stable, with no erosional problems noted. The riprap in the lateral drains was in place as required. There were no signs of settling, slumping or cracking on the fill.

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, the Jeff Canyon Haul Road, is well maintained and stable. There was no rutting on the road and no erosional problems were noted on the road or the road outcrops. This road is also used by the gas drilling operations in the area.

REVEGETATION – Rule 4.15

Vegetative Cover; Timing:

- The operator planted 500 assorted shrubs and trees in an enclosure just south of excess spoil fill 8 (just before the 90° bend in the haul road). The operator is currently watering the shrubs and trees to make sure they survive the relatively dry summer.

- Overall the Lorencito Canyon Mine is well vegetated with perennial cover. The cover is mostly grasses but there are some shrubs starting to emerge. There were no noxious weeds noted during the inspection.

DOCUMENTS RECEIVED: None

This concludes the 23 May 2013 partial inspection report for the Lorencito Canyon Mine.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 8

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 4

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

There are no outstanding enforcement actions at the Lorencito Canyon Mine and none were issued as a result of the 23 May 2013 partial inspection.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 8

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 4

PHOTOGRAPHS



Shrub enclosure with 500 various shrubs and trees

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 8

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 4