




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



PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1981-025 Mine Name: North Thompson Creek Mine Operator: MINREC, Inc. Operator Address: Mr. James E Stover 2352 N 7th St, Ste B Grand Junction, CO 81501	County: Garfield Operation Type: Underground Permit Status: Inactive Ownership: Federal
	Operator Representative Present: None
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) 	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: June 18, 2013 Inspection Start Time: 12:00 Inspection End Date: June 18, 2013 Inspection End Time: 13:00	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 27, 2013

Inspection Topic Summary

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

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

COMMENTS

This was a complete inspection of the North Thompson Creek Mine conducted by Brock Bowles of the Colorado Division Reclamation, Mining and Safety. The weather conditions were sunny and warm. The ground conditions were dry. The main entrance gate was locked and the combination is not known. The operator, Stan Muhr (MINREC), said via telephone conversation (6/25/2013), that the land owner installed the new lock and he was not given the new combination.

AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS – Rule 5.02.4(1):

All the necessary records were available at the Garfield County Court House in Glenwood Springs. See the Availability of Records form at the end of this inspection report. The NPDES reports need updating as the last report in the court house records is Sept 2012.

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 pipe carrying water across the bridge from the #1 Portal to the long pond appeared to be in good condition (photo 1). Water was flowing from both the #1 and #3 portal discharge pipes into the long pond (photo 2). The water from both discharges was clear. The long pond contained water and the banks appeared to be stable. Water was flowing from the Long Pond to T1 through the spillway pipe. Pond T1 contained water and the banks appeared to be stable. Water flowed from T1 to T2 through the open ditch. Pond T2 contained water and the banks appeared to be stable. Water was then directed to Pond P9. Pond P9 contained water and was not discharging. No water passed through Outfall 001A. The unapproved ditch that went from Pond P9 to the adjacent pasture intended for irrigation (see inspection report 10/27/2012) was filled in with dirt.

Water was being pumped from Pond T2 to a stock-tank, via a pipeline, off the permit area. Pumping and use of the treated water was approved in MR-9.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 3

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 5

The emergency spillway from Pond P9 to Outfall 001 was re-directed away from Outfall 001 to the refuse disposal pond ditch (photos 3 and 4). No water was flowing through the ditch. J. E. Stover & Associates and Stan Muhr were unaware of the change. After contacting the landowners, Stan Muhr explained that the landowners changed the ditch configuration because they want to keep all the water on the property. Stan Muhr is scheduling a meeting with the landowners and DRMS to discuss the changes in the mine water discharge plan. It does not appear that the change in the emergency spillway direction will have any impacts offsite, decrease the capacity of the passive water treatment facility or cause harm to the water treatment facility. DRMS suggested that no further changes be made to the permit or the mine site until after the meeting with the landowners when a new mine water discharge plan is agreed upon by all parties.

The banks of the Long Pond, T1 and T2 were well vegetated and appeared to be stable.

Some pipe pieces were in the ditch between Pond T2 and Outfall 001. These pipes could prevent or hinder water flow and need to be removed (photo 5).

The discharge pipe leading from Outfall 001 was obstructed and needs to be cleaned (photo 6).

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):

A lock was on the main entrance gate. Access was attained by lifting the gate off the hinges. The main access road was in good condition and passable.

REVEGETATION – Rule 4.15 Vegetative Cover; Timing:

The area that was disturbed by redirecting the emergency spillway from Pond P9 was covered with straw mulch. It was unclear from the visual inspection if the area had been seeded (photos 3 and 4).

SIGNS AND MARKERS – Rule 4.02:

The main entrance sign was in place and had all the required information.

DOCUMENTS RECEIVED: None

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

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

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo 1- Discharge Pipe From #1 Portal



Photo 2- Mine Discharge #1(left) and #3 (right)



Photo 3 – The red line shows the location where the permitted emergency spillway ditch is supposed to be. The blue line shows the current ditch directing water to the Refuse Pile Pond Ditch.

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Photo 4 – The red line shows the location of the permitted emergency spillway ditch, which has been filled in. The blue line shows the direction of the current ditch directing water to the Refuse Pile Pond Ditch.



Photo 5 – Pipes in Ditch Need to be Removed



Photo 6 – Outlet Pipe Needs to be Cleaned

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AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS**PERMIT RECORDS**

DRMS Permit	X – 8/2013
Permit Application w/Revisions	X
Findings Document	X – 2009
Insurance Certificate	X - 9/2013
Bond Document	X – 2012
Phased Bond Release	X
Documents/Findings	
Air Emission Permits	
County Special Use Permits	
UG Mining Landowner Notification	
Subsidence Monitoring Reports	
Subsidence Monitoring Data	
Rill & Gully Survey	
Vegetation Monitoring Data	X
Specific Variance Approvals	
Annual Reclamation Reports	X – 2012
Midterm Review Documents	X – 2011
DRMS/OSM Inspection	X
Reports/Enforcement Actions (3 Years)	
Transfers/Succession of Operator	
Temporary Cessation Notification	X
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	
Access Road Certifications	

HYDROLOGIC RECORDS

NPDES Permit	X - 2015
NPDES Records	X – 9/2012
Stormwater Management Plan	X
SPCC Plan	
MSHA Pond Inspections	
State Engineer's Pond Inspection	
Quarterly Pond Inspections	
Annual Hydrology Reports	X – 2012
• Ground Water Monitoring	
• Surface Water Monitoring	X
• Spring & Seep Monitoring	
• Mine Water Discharge Monitoring	X
• Mine Inflow Study	
• Water Consumption Records	
Well Permits	

BLASTING RECORDS

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

ADDITIONAL RECORDS

(specify)	

COMMENTS:

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