




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



PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1981-008 Mine Name: New Horizon Mine Operator: Western Fuels-Colorado, LLC Operator Address: Mr. Ross L Gubka P.O. Box 628 Nucla, CO 81424	County: Montrose Operation Type: Surface Permit Status: Active Ownership: Private
	Operator Representative Present: None (Aerial Inspection)
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) This report was issued electronically from the Division's Durango Field Office.	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: July 23, 2013 Inspection Start Time: 12:57 Inspection End Date: July 23, 2013 Inspection End Time: 13:01		Inspection Type: Aerial Inspection Inspection Reason: Normal I&E Program Weather: Cloudy	
Joint Inspection Agency: None		Joint Inspection Contacts:	
Post Inspection Agency: None		Post Inspection Contacts:	
Inspector(s): Marcia L. Talvitie, P.E.	Inspector's Signature: 		Signature Date: 30 July 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

NA - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

NA - Explosives

N - Fish & Wildlife

R - Hydrologic Balance

N - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

N - Other

NA - Processing Waste

Y - Roads

R - Reclamation Success

R - Revegetation

NA - Subsidence

NA - Slides and Other Damage

R - Support Facilities On-site

N - Signs and Markers

NA - Support Facilities Not On-site

R - Special Categories Of Mining

R - Topsoil

COMMENTS

An aerial inspection of the New Horizon Mine was conducted by DRMS personnel in July 2013. Photos were taken by Harry Ranney on July 23, 2013, and were later analyzed and annotated by Marcia Talvitie.

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:

- All backfilling of the pit has been completed, with the exception of the NW corner of the WFC property, the last area to be mined.
- Material for backfilling the final cut will need to come from the boxcut spoil pile located near the southeastern corner of the permit.

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:

- Ponds 007, 008 and 013 all held water. The water appeared to be higher in suspended solids than is typical; it may be that runoff from recent precipitation events has contributed sediment to the system.
- Ponds 009, 011, 012, and 015 were essentially dry.

RECLAMATION SUCCESS - Rule 4.15, Rule 3:

- The mine is in various stages of reclamation, ranging from years of successful production to areas that are recently seeded, to those which have yet to be final-graded.
- The shovel was not identified in any of the photos, and may have been already moved to the nearby New Horizon North Mine.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 2

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 0

- Much of the permit area (those fields with a postmining land use of Irrigated Pasture) was undergoing continued irrigation.

REVEGETATION – Rule 4.15

Vegetative Cover; Timing:

- Fields with a postmining land use of Dryland Pasture were extremely dry in appearance. Due to the condition (and thus relative invisibility) of the grasses, it was impossible to determine the success of revegetation efforts for those parcels.
- The Irrigated Pasture reference area appeared to be receiving irrigation, especially the lower portion. There did not appear to be any livestock grazing the reference area.

SPECIAL CATEGORIES OF MINING – Rules 4.22 through 4.27:

Prime Farmland – Rule 4.25

- The Morgan property has been backfilled, and all of the “OB1” stockpile has been utilized to accomplish the final grading of the “Bench 1 Surface Spoil” layer.
- It appears that ripping of the upper spoil layer may have commenced on the Morgan property.
- Topsoil stockpiles remain in place on the eastern end of the Morgan property.

TOPSOIL – Rule 4.06

Removal 4.06.2; Substitute Materials 4.06.4(4); Storage and Protection 4.06.3; Redistribution 4.06.4:

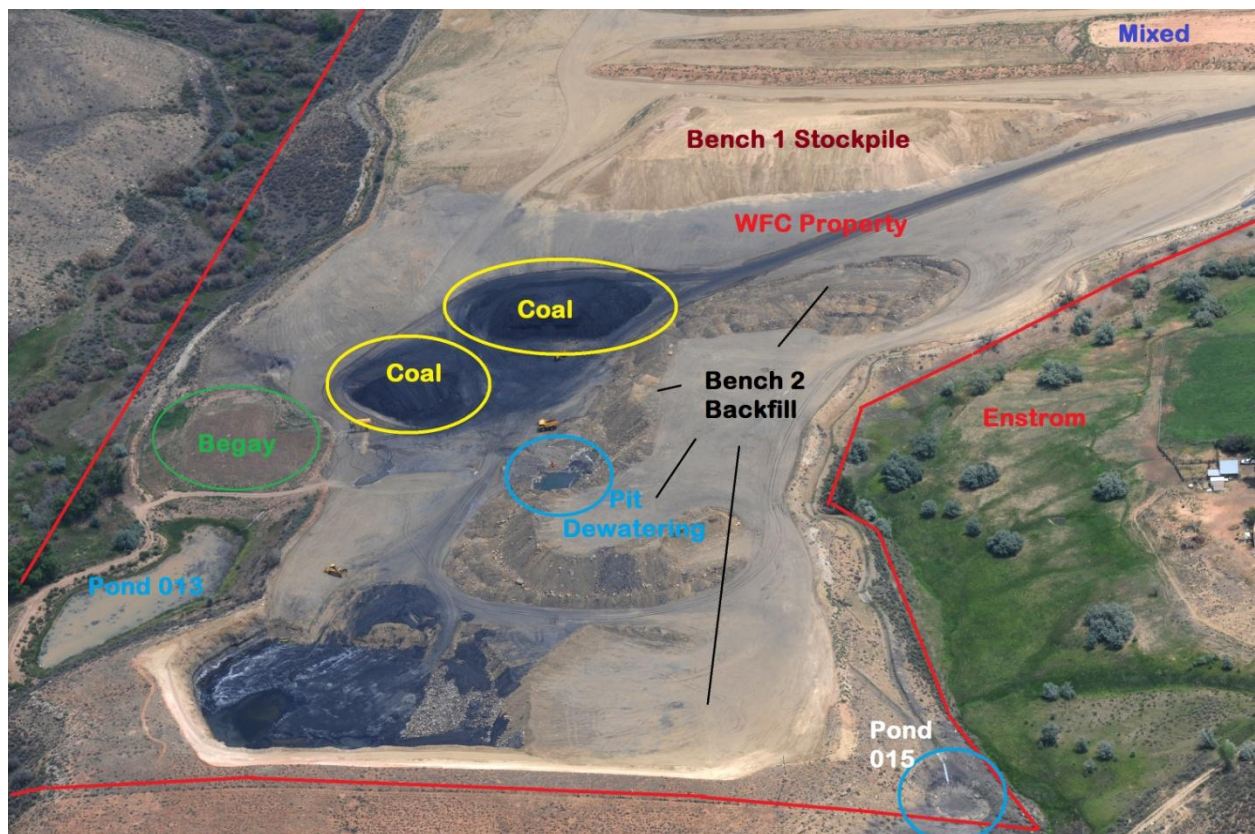
- Various topsoil stockpiles are scattered throughout the mine’s permit area, and are identified in the various photos.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE

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



Permit area west of 2700 Road, looking NE

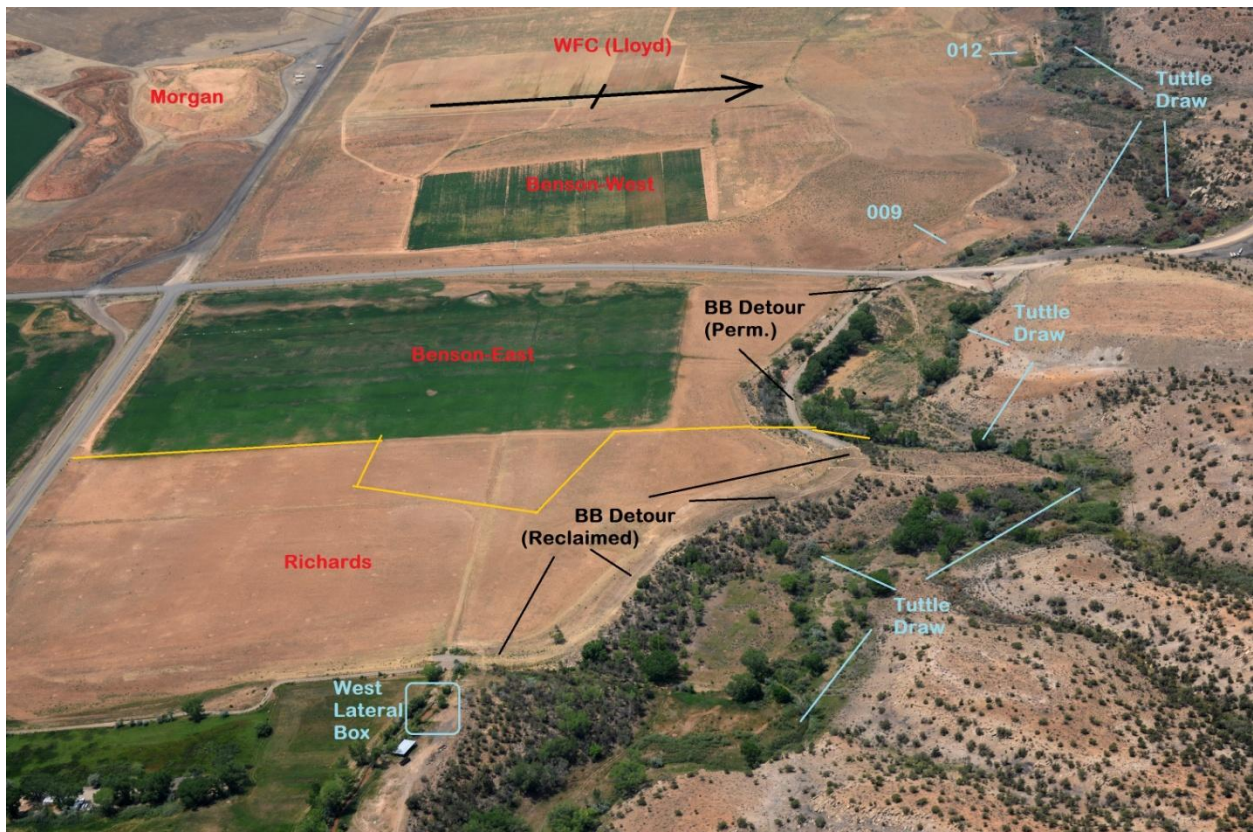


WFC parcel, awaiting final backfill and transport of mined coal resource (looking East)

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Western end of permit area, looking East



Northern side of permit area, looking West

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 2

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 0



Eastern portion of permit area, looking West



Surface facilities, IP Reference Area, SE corner of permit area (looking SW)

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 2

Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 0