




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



PERMIT INFORMATION

Permit Number: C-1994-082 Mine Name: Yoast Mine Operator: Seneca Coal Company, LLC Operator Address: Mr. Roy Karo 37796 Routt County Road 53 P.O. Box 670 Hayden, CO 81639	County: Routt Operation Type: Surface Permit Status: Permanent Cessation Ownership: Federal
	Operator Representative Present: Roy Karo
Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only) 	

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Start Date: August 12, 2013 Inspection Start Time: 11:00 Inspection End Date: August 16, 2013 Inspection End Time: 09:15	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): Jared L. Ebert	Inspector's Signature:  Signature Date: August 26, 2013

Inspection Topic Summary

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

Y - Air Resource Protection

R - Availability of Records

NA - Backfill & Grading

NA - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste

NA - Explosives

R - Fish & Wildlife

R - Hydrologic Balance

Y - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

NA - Other

NA - Processing Waste

Y - Roads

NA - Reclamation Success

R - Revegetation

NA - Subsidence

R - Slides and Other Damage

NA - Support Facilities On-site

Y - Signs and Markers

NA - Support Facilities Not On-site

NA - Special Categories Of Mining

R - Topsoil

COMMENTS

This was a complete inspection of the Yoast Mine; DRMS permit no. C-1994-082; operated by Seneca Coal Company (SCC). I, Jared Ebert of the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) conducted the inspection. Mr. Roy Karo with SCC was aware of the inspection but did not accompany me into the field. The site was inspected on the afternoons of August 12 and 14th. The mine records were checked on the morning of August 16th. The weather during the site inspections was partly cloudy and hot.

AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS – Rule 5.02.4(1):

The mine records were checked the morning of August 16th, 2013 at the Sage Creek mine office. See the end of the report for details.

FISH and WILDLIFE – Rule 4.18:

Four bucks were observed browsing in the YPM-1-3/ YPM-6-1 drainage.

A group of ducks and a Blue Heron was observed in Pond 010.

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:

Pond 011 was holding water but was not discharging. The embankment was stable and vegetated. The primary and emergency spillways were clear and functional.

Pond 012 was holding water and discharging. The embankment was table and vegetated. The primary and emergency spillways were clear and functional.

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 1

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Pond 014 was holding water but was not discharging. The leak that was observed under the flume of Pond 014 has been repaired. The outlet of the pond is rip-rapped and stable. The embankment was stable and vegetated. The primary and emergency spillway was clear and functional.

Pond 013 was holding water but was not discharging. The embankment was stable and vegetated. The primary and emergency spillways appeared clear and functional.

Drainages YPM-3-2 and 3-2A appear to have been recently rip-rapped and repaired. Gabion checkdams have been installed inside the channel and appear to be functioning. The drainage through the shrub plot SP06-3 has been repaired. A new surge tank has been installed in YPM-3-2 east of the shrub plot.

Rip-rap has been staged adjacent to the YPM-1-2 drainage for repairs.

Stock tank ST-1 was holding water but was not discharging. The embankment appeared stable.

A surge tank has been constructed in the YPM-1-3 drainage near the intersection of YPM-19.

Rip-rap has been installed the YPM-19 and 1-3 drainages.

Turf re-enforced matting has been installed in the YPM-18 drainage and appears to be functioning. Vegetation has begun to establish in the drainage.

Pond 010 was holding water and discharging. The embankment was stable and vegetated. The primary and emergency spillway was clear and functional.

SCC was conducting repairs in the following drainage channels during the inspection; YPM-6-1, 6-2, 7, and 5-1. A new channel has been constructed in YPM-6-2 and 6-1 and has been lined with rock. The operator was actively working on YPM-5-1. A shovel was excavating and shaping the channel with the assistance of a small dozer. A haul truck was transporting rock and staging it along the channel and transporting soil up the drainage excavated by the shovel. Gabion baskets have been staged along the drainage.

Pond 012a was observed. This pond was holding water and discharging. The embankment was stable and the primary and emergency spillway was clear and functional. A new surge tank has been installed in the YPM-5-1 channel

The lowest surge tank in the YPM-13 drainage southwest of Pond 011a is damaged and needs repair. The embankment has eroded away under the spillway.

Pond 011a was holding water but was not discharging. The embankment appears stable and the primary and emergency spillway was clear and functional.

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REVEGETATION – Rule 4.15, Vegetative Cover; Timing:

The YPM-1-1 drainage basin was walked. Shrub Plot SP-06-1 was observed. Woods Rose, Serviceberry, Silver Sage and Buffalo Berry shrubs were observed. Perennial Grasses such as Sheep Fescue, Western Wheatgrass, Timothy, Basin Wildrye and an introduced forb; Alfalfa seems to be the dominant vegetation in this drainage basin.

The head pit area was observed. Large portions of the revegetated slope above YPM-10 have large patches of cheatgrass and tumble mustard established.

SLIDES and DAMAGE - Rule 4.12:

The Pond 012 slide was observed. Overall the area appears stable. Minor rilling was observed on the steep portion of the slope. SCC has recently applied topsoil to base of the slide area.

The Pond 013 slide and Neck Pit slide areas were observed. It does not appear these areas have changed since the last inspection.

TOPSOIL – Rule 4.06; Removal 4.06.2; Substitute Materials 4.06.4(4); Storage and Protection 4.06.3; Redistribution 4.06.4:

An access road has been constructed along YPM-7 from light use road LU3B. This road is being used to conduct repairs in the drainage channels in the Pond 012 basin. It appears topsoil has been stripped from the road and stockpiled adjacent to the road.

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PHOTOGRAPHS



Pond 012 slide



YPM-6-1 drainage repair



Pond 014 flume repair



YPM-1-1 drainage basin



Gabion installed



YPM-5-1 drainage repair above Pond 012a

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YPM-7 drainage repair



Cheatgrass and tumble mustard patch above YPM-10



New surge tank in YPM-5-1 drainage.



Neck pit area



YPM-5-1 drainage repair



YPM-13 drainage

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Pond 011a

Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 1

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AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS**PERMIT RECORDS**

DRMS Permit

Exp 8/5/15

HYDROLOGIC RECORDS

NPDES Permit

X Exp 10-31-2011
renewal app.
4/22/11, ext. indef.

Permit Application w/Revisions

X @ Sage Creek
Office

NPDES Records

X 1Q 2013

Findings Document

X RN-3, MT4

Stormwater Management Plan

Jan 3rd 2013

Insurance Certificate

Exp 11/01/13

SPCC Plan

NA

Bond Document

SB 005

MSHA Pond Inspections

NA

\$2,221,677.26

Phased Bond Release

X In SL-4

NA

Documents/Findings

application binder

State Engineer's Pond Inspection

Air Emission Permits

NA

Quarterly Pond Inspections

X 1Q Q 2013

County Special Use Permits

X

Annual Hydrology Reports

X 2012

UG Mining Landowner Notification

NA

- Ground Water Monitoring

X AHR

Subsidence Monitoring Reports

NA

- Surface Water Monitoring

X AHR

Subsidence Monitoring Data

NA

- Spring & Seep Monitoring

X AHR

Rill & Gully Survey

X 2013

- Mine Water Discharge Monitoring

NA

Vegetation Monitoring Data

X 2012

- Mine Inflow Study

NA

Specific Variance Approvals

X PAP

- Water Consumption Records

NA

Annual Reclamation Reports

X 2012

Well Permits

X May 1996

Midterm Review Documents

X MT4, 2013

DRMS/OSM Inspection

X

Reports/Enforcement Actions (3 Years)

BLASTING RECORDS

Transfers/Succession of Operator

NA

Blasting Publication

NA

Temporary Cessation Notification

NA

Blasting Records (3 years)

NA (last blasting
Feb 2006)

Reclamation Cost Estimate

X MT4

ATFE Explosives Permit

NA

CERTIFICATIONS

Pond Certifications

X PAP

Blasting Variances

PAP

Annual Certifications for Large
Impoundments

X Jan 2013

Pre-Blast Surveys

PAP

Fill Certifications for Excess Spoil or
Underground Development Waste

NA

ADDITIONAL RECORDS (specify)

- Quarterly Inspections

NA

- Compaction Testing

NA

- Final Certification

NA

Coal Processing Waste Banks

NA

Haul Road Certifications

X PAP

Access Road Certifications

NA

COMMENTS:Number of Partial Inspection this Fiscal Year: 1Number of Complete Inspections this Fiscal Year: 1