




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



### PERMIT INFORMATION

<b>Permit Number:</b> C-1981-019 <b>Mine Name:</b> Colowyo Coal Mine <b>Operator:</b> Colowyo Coal Company L.P. <b>Operator Address:</b> Mr. Tony Tennyson 5731 State Highway 13 Meeker, CO 81641	<b>County:</b> Moffat, Rio Blanco <b>Operation Type:</b> Surface <b>Permit Status:</b> Active <b>Ownership:</b> Federal
	<b>Operator Representative Present:</b>  Kurt Blunt, Elliott Russell
<b>Operator Representative Signature: (Field Issuance Only)</b>  	

### INSPECTION INFORMATION

<b>Inspection Start Date:</b> August 21, 2013 <b>Inspection Start Time:</b> 14:00 <b>Inspection End Date:</b> August 22, 2013 <b>Inspection End Time:</b> 16:00	<b>Inspection Type:</b> Coal Partial Inspection <b>Inspection Reason:</b> Normal I&E Program <b>Weather:</b> Clear	
<b>Joint Inspection Agency:</b>  None	<b>Joint Inspection Contacts:</b>  	
<b>Post Inspection Agency:</b>  None	<b>Post Inspection Contacts:</b>  	
<b>Inspector(s):</b>  Robert D. Zuber, P.E.	<b>Inspector's Signature:</b>  	<b>Signature Date:</b>  8/26/2013

**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  
 N - Backfill & Grading  
 R - Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste  
 N - Explosives  
 R - Fish & Wildlife  
 R - Hydrologic Balance  
 R - Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan  
 N - Other  
 NA - Processing Waste

N - Roads  
 R - Reclamation Success  
 R - Revegetation  
 NA - Subsidence  
 R - Slides and Other Damage  
 R - Support Facilities On-site  
 R - Signs and Markers  
 NA - Support Facilities Not On-site  
 NA - Special Categories Of Mining  
 N - Topsoil

**COMMENTS**

A partial inspection was conducted by Rob Zuber of DRMS on August 21 and 22, 2013. Colowyo employees who participated in the field inspection included Kurt Blunt (August 21) and Elliott Russell (August 22). The weather was clear on both days. The ground was dry.

On August 21 the inspection was not near the active mining and reclamation areas of Colowyo Mine.

Mining and reclamation activities were limited on August 22; Thursdays are an off day for production personnel, per Chris McCourt, Mine Manager. There was some work on drilling for blasting in the West Pit. In South Taylor Pit, one loader and one truck were moving soil (parting between G7 seam and G8 seam per Elliott Russell).

The depth of South Taylor Pit was estimated with a TruPulse laser rangefinder, and the vertical distance from the northeast edge to the bottom of the pit was approximately 420 feet.

**EXCESS SPOIL and DEVELOPMENT WASTE – Rule 4.09** □ Placement; Drainage Control; Surface Stabilization:

Rills have been repaired on the surface of the West Taylor Fill and have not opened up again (as seen from the West Taylor Pond). The side drains of this fill remain stable.

**FISH and WILDLIFE – Rule 4.18:**

At Streeter Pond, an antelope, several ducks, and a snake were observed.

**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:

Monitoring well locations were checked for A-6, A-7, A-8, North Good Spring Well, MT-95-02, and

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Gossard Well. This was accomplished by comparing on-site locations of the wells and nearby features to landmarks on the map "Surface and Ground Water Sampling Locations" (Exhibit 2C from the 2011 Annual Reclamation Report). The location check was also supported by collecting GPS data at each well (using a Trimble Yuma tablet with GPS function). This inspection of well locations indicated that the map locations are very accurate.

Some observed ponds were not discharging: Gulch A and Rail Loop. The following ponds were discharging: Streeter, West Taylor, and East Taylor. For all discharging ponds, no sign of pollutants was observed. No major problems were found with embankments or other structures. Some additional observations regarding the ponds:

- The flume below Gulch A requires grass removal on the downstream side.
- Streeter Pond still needs cleaning.
- Algae are building in East Taylor Pond.

The following observations were made regarding ditches:

- Gulch A Ditch and the East Side Collection Ditch were observed nearly in their entirety, and no erosion or other problems were observed in the ditches.
- A gully was seen along Gulch A, approximately 300 feet west of the power line.
- The ditch (and culvert) below the Gossard Pond outlet has been cleaned.

Most sumps along Taylor Creek are clear. Sump #5 requires cleaning again.

#### GENERAL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE:

The Colowyo Coal Mine was generally found to be in compliance with the mine plan.

#### REVEGETATION – Rule 4.15 □ Vegetative Cover; Timing:

In several locations, there was evidence of weed spraying: Gulch A Pond, East Pit area, near the West Taylor Pond, near the East Taylor Pond,

No large patches of weeds were observed other than cheat grass along the Taylor Creek Road.

Revegetation generally looked good. South of the Final East Pit Ditch the emerging vegetation was very green, as seen from across the ditch.

#### SLIDES and DAMAGE - Rule 4.12:

The slump above East Taylor Pond (east side of drainage) appears to be healing well; it is filling in with vegetation.

#### SUPPORT FACILITIES - Rule 4.04:

The Gossard Loadout and the South Taylor ready line were inspected; no problems were observed.

#### SIGNS AND MARKERS – Rule 4.02:

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Across the highway from the Gulch A Pond entrance (at the Kourlis Ranch entrance), a permit boundary sign has been removed as requested after previous inspection.

Buffer zone markers were observed for Good Spring Creek and Taylor Creek. For Good Spring Creek, one marker was observed near Gulch A Pond. For Taylor Creek, markers were seen south of the holding pond; the area north of there was not checked.

### **ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS/COMPLIANCE**

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

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**PHOTOGRAPHS**



**Gulch A Ditch**



**Signs of weed management in East Pit area**

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**East Pit reclamation**



**South Taylor Pit, looking south**

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**West Taylor Pond and West Taylor Fill**



**Slump above East Taylor Pond**

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