



Environmental Assessment Office Inspection Record

Project Name:	Brule Mine	Inspection Status:	Final
Certificate #:	M06-02	Inspection No:	FY 17/18-09
Certificate Status:	Certified	Inspection Date:	2017-06-20
Region:	Peace	Office:	Victoria
Trigger:	Planned	Inspector Name(s):	Justin Carlson (EAO) Mike Olsen (MEM) Victor Marques (MEM) Laurie Meade (MEM)
Location Description:	Approximately 55km South of Chetwynd.	Sector:	Mines
Latitude:	+055.39946 °	Longitude:	-121.83279 °
Incidents of Non-Compliance Observed	Yes		
Non-Compliance Decision Matrix Level:	Choose an item.	Non-Compliance Decision Matrix Category:	Choose an item.
Inspection Summary:	<p>This record details the results of an inspection against the requirements attached to Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC) # M06-02, that occurred on June 20, 2017. The inspection was conducted by Justin Carlson, Compliance and Enforcement Officer, BC Environmental Assessment Office (C&E Carlson) and the following representatives from the Ministry of Energy and Mines: Mike Olsen, Inspector of Mines - Interagency Coordinator Compliance and Enforcement (MEM Olsen), Victor Marques, Senior Geotechnical Inspector (MEM Marques), and Laurie Meade, Inspector of Mines- Health and Safety (MEM Meade).</p> <p>C&E Carlson was accompanied during the inspection by the following project personnel: Jackie CALDWELL, Environmental Manager, Conuma Coal, and Kale ERICSON Loss Prevention Co-Ordinator, Conuma Coal.</p> <p>The Project has resumed operations in late 2016/early 2017. The coal from Brule is currently being trucked to Willow Creek for loadout and transportation via rail.</p> <p>On June 20, 2017 C&E Carlson and representatives from MEM inspected the waste management facilities, bulk fuel storage tanks, SP1 and SP2 (sediment ponds), Coarse Coal Rejects (CCR) Dump, and the mine pit.</p> <p>C&E Carlson and MEM Olsen completed a verbal debrief of inspection observations on the day of inspection at approximately 1224 hrs. This debrief was presented to CALDWELL, ERICSON</p>		



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	<p>and Rob TIEGEN Mine Manager for Brule. The observations discussed are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor attractant management concerns. • Improper waste management procedures • Lack of required mitigation plans • Bulk fuel storage facility was in non-compliance with the requirements of the fuel management plan • The current transport method for coal from Brule to Willow Creek may not be in accordance with amendment # 1 for the Brule Certificate. EAO C&E will review the amendment requirements prior to making a determination. • MEM was the lead inspectors on geotechnical issues and safety. Please refer to the MEM Meade and MEM Marques inspection reports for Brule on June 20, 2017 for more details regarding their findings. <p>After review of observations and information obtained during the inspection, as well as through the opportunity to respond, the following compliance determinations have been made:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Project is out of compliance with Commitment #4, specifically the requirement to provide concrete barriers around the bulk fuel storage tank. 2. The Project is out of compliance with Commitment #61 with the requirement to maintain and update as needed a Wildlife Protection Plan for the Brule Project. 3. The Project is out of compliance with Commitment #78 with the requirement to ensure that collection, storage, transportation and disposal of all wastes generated by all project components will be conducted in a safe, efficient and compliant manner. 4. The Project is in compliance with the following Commitments: 7, 27, 62, 83, 96, 102 and 105. 5. Compliance could not be determined for Commitment# 115 6. Compliance could not be determined for Condition #1, specific to the requirements in Amendment #1. <p>See the findings below for additional details.</p> <p>Please note that the compliance determinations in this report reflect the findings from the inspection dates noted above and that these determinations can change at any time upon information gathered through future inspections or if new information is obtained by EAO C&E.</p>
Certificate or Act:	Environmental Assessment Certificate #M06-02
Activity:	On Site
Response:	Choose an item.



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Audit Record(s):		Total Non-Compliance(s):	
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Proponents Name:	Conuma Coal Resources Limited
Proponents Contact(s):	Jackie CALDWELL
In attendance:	Jackie CALDWELL, Environmental Manager, Conuma Coal, Kale ERICSON, Loss Prevention Co-Ordinator with Conuma Coal
Mailing Address:	Box 2140, Tumbler Ridge BC, V0C 2W0
Phone No:	(250) 242-3746 Ext. 2052 (CALDWELL)
Fax No:	
Contact Email:	Jackie Caldwell- JCaldwell@conumacoal.com

Inspection Details

Types of Compliance:	Operations
Requirement Description:	Condition #1 of EAC# M06-02 The Project must be designed, located, constructed and operated in accordance with the Conditions of this Certificate and the documents and correspondence listed in Schedule A (the Holder's commitments in Schedule A are summarized for ease of reference in Schedule B), and must comply with all of the Conditions of this Certificate to the reasonable satisfaction of the Minister.
Findings:	At the time of inspection, C&E Carlson observed trucks travelling north on Highway 29 through Chetwynd and then proceeding west on Highway 97 to the Willow Creek FSR. Trucks from Wolverine Mine and Brule Mine were depositing their loads at the Willow Creek Mine loadout for transportation by rail. As trucks from both Brule and Wolverine were depositing their loads at Willow Creek, C&E Carlson requested additional information from Conuma on July 24, 2017 regarding their trucking from Brule Mine to the Willow Creek loadout. Full details regarding the Wolverine trucking can be found in EAO C&E inspection # FY17/18-10 . Amendment #1 of EAC#M06-02 permitted the hauling of coal via provincial highways as a temporary measure until the construction of the Falling Creek Connector Road (FCCR). See Sections E and F of Amendment #1. Amendment #1 and the documents attached to Schedule A can be found here: https://projects.eao.gov.bc.ca/p/brule-mine/docs



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	<p>On August 9, 2017, Conuma representative Dan MCNEIL responded to C&E Carlson providing the following information:</p> <p><i>The FCCR construction has been completed.</i></p> <p><i>The FCCR is being utilized for coal haul from the Brule Mine to the Willow Creek loadout facility.</i></p> <p><i>Photos of trucks to show lack of mud and tarp installation on loaded trucks.</i></p> <p><i>The trucks are utilizing the Provincial Highways to return to Brule, these trucks are not loaded with coal.</i></p> <p>There were no photos of trucks provided as per the statement by MCNEIL above.</p> <p>The above statement and information obtained during this inspection will require further follow-up to make an appropriate compliance determination.</p> <p>The requirements in Amendment #1 will be followed up on in a future inspection.</p>
Compliance:	Not Determined

Types of Compliance:	Operations
Requirement Description:	<p>Commitment #4 of Schedule B</p> <p>The Fuel Management Plan</p> <p>Brule Mine Project contractors will be required to comply with the Project Fuel Management Plan</p>
Findings:	<p>EAO C&E had previously conducted an inspection of the Brule Mine on July 21, 2015. At the time of inspection, a bulk fuel tank located near the office trailers was identified on site lacking the required concrete barriers to prevent potential vehicle collisions with the tank. EAO C&E had requested that this non-compliance be remedied prior to the mine starting up again.</p> <p>The same tank was observed on this inspection:</p>

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Date & Time: Tue Jun 20 12:30:19 MST 2017
 Position: +055.39883° / -121.83273°
 Altitude: 1230m
 Datum: WGS-84
 Azimuth/Bearing: 279° N81W 4960mils (Magnetic)
 Elevation Angle: -03.7°
 Horizon Angle: -00.6°
 Zoom: 1X



Bulk fuel tank located near the office trailers lacking the required concrete barriers.

The Project resumed operation in late 2016/early 2017 and has not installed the concrete barriers as required.

An update was provided by Conuma representative Dan MCNEIL on August 9, 2017 including the following photo:

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Photo of concrete blocks around the fuel tank provided by Dan MCNEIL on August 9, 2017.

The above image appears to provide a resolution to the non-compliance.

This requirement will be inspected against in a future inspection.

Compliance:

Out

Types of Compliance:	Operations
Requirement Description:	Commitment #7 of Schedule B Environmental Management System The Project site orientation will include an introduction to the Environmental Management System. (EMS)
Findings:	Conuma Coal Resources Limited has updated the General and Environmental Orientations




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	<p>for 2017. The Environmental Orientation attached as Appendix A appears to meet the requirements of this Commitment.</p> <p>Training records for employees and contractors were reviewed on site indicating that they have received this orientation.</p>
Compliance:	In

Types of Compliance:	Operations
Requirement Description:	<p>Commitment #27 of Schedule B</p> <p>Air Quality</p> <p>The Certificate Holder will water or apply surface treatments on roads to reduce dust emissions when required to meet public safety, to achieve ambient air quality and dustfall permit objectives, and to achieve safe operating conditions.</p>
Findings:	A water truck was observed within the Brule Mine Pit, see the following image:



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	<p> Date & Time: Tue Jun 20 11:29:32 MST 2017 Position: +055.38732° / -121.83049° Altitude: 1154m Datum: WGS-84 Azimuth/Bearing: 235° S55W 4178mils (Magnetic) Elevation Angle: -00.0° Horizon Angle: +02.2° Zoom: 1X </p>  <p>Water truck operating on a mine haul road.</p> <p>The above image provides evidence of compliance with this requirement.</p>
Compliance:	In

Types of Compliance:	Operations
Requirement Description:	Commitment #61 of Schedule B The Certificate Holder will maintain and update as needed a Wildlife Protection Plan for the Brule Project, and will submit this plan to MOE every two years.
Findings:	EAO C&E had previously conducted an inspection of the Brule Mine on July 21, 2015. At the time of inspection, EAO C&E had requested a copy of the Wildlife Protection Plan for review.




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	<p>The Holder was unable to produce the requested plan at that time.</p> <p>On June 27, 2017, C&E Carlson requested a copy of the Wildlife Protection Plan by July 13, 2017. The Wildlife Protection Plan was not provided within the timeframe requested. When asked about what mitigation measures were being implemented in regards to wildlife, CALDWELL provided an excerpt from the Brule Mine 5 Year Mine & Reclamation Program Report (2014 through 2018). This is attached as Appendix B.</p> <p>EAO C & E does not consider The Brule Mine 5 Year Mine & Reclamation Program Report (2014 through 2018) as a Wildlife Protection Plan. The report noted above does not identify any measures to protect wildlife and does not provide evidence of compliance with this requirement.</p> <p>An update was provided by Conuma representative Dan MCNEIL on August 9, 2017 that included a copy of the Wildlife Management Plan to be used on the Willow Creek, Wolverine and Brule Mine sites. This new Wildlife Management Plan (WMP) is attached as Appendix E.</p> <p>The new WMP appears to provide some resolution to the non-compliance.</p> <p>This requirement will be inspected against in a future inspection.</p>
Compliance:	Out

Types of Compliance:	Operations
Requirement Description:	<p>Commitment #62 of Schedule B</p> <p>The Certificate Holder will communicate Wildlife Protection requirements to staff and contractors at the site Orientation.</p>
Findings:	<p>Wildlife protection requirements are outlined in the Environmental Orientation for Brule. Appendix A appears to provide proof of compliance with this requirement.</p> <p>Training records for employees and contractors were reviewed on site indicating that they have received this orientation and the general orientation.</p>
Compliance:	In

Types of Compliance:	Operations
Requirement Description:	<p>Commitment #78 of Schedule B</p> <p>The Certificate Holder will ensure that collection, storage, transportation and disposal of all wastes</p>

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	generated by all project components will be conducted in a safe, efficient and compliant manner.
Findings:	<p>C&E Carlson inspected 5 hazardous waste bins, 4 contaminated soil bins and one large construction waste bin. The construction waste bin contained anthropogenic food sources and recyclable materials such as cardboard.</p> <p>See the attached photos:</p> <div data-bbox="289 590 1533 1520"> <p>Date & Time: Tue Jun 20 12:25:00 MST 2017 Position: +055.39985° / -121.83441° Altitude: 1239m Datum: WGS-84 Azimuth/Bearing: 001° N01E 0018mils (Magnetic) Elevation Angle: -39.8° Horizon Angle: -01.8° Zoom: 1X</p>  </div> <p>Hazardous waste disposal bin containing oil filters and other used hydrocarbon products.</p>

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Date & Time: Tue Jun 20 09:22:31 MST 2017
 Position: +055.39957° / -121.83275°
 Altitude: 1231m
 Datum: WGS-84
 Azimuth/Bearing: 311° N49W 5529mils (Magnetic)
 Elevation Angle: +02.6°
 Horizon Angle: -01.2°
 Zoom: 1X



Open construction waste bin containing food and recyclable materials.

A copy of the newly developed Waste Management Plan was provided to EAO C&E (Appendix F). Section 4.0 of The Waste Management Plan states:

Waste Segregation

Conuma employees, contractors and subcontractors, including any site services Contractors will be required to implement category-specific segregation of all waste streams to make it easier to reduce, reuse, recycle (3 R's) and dispose of the various wastes.

The lack of waste segregation in the open bin above is evidence of non-compliance with the requirement to implement a Waste Management Plan.

It is noted that the Waste Management Plan appears to have been developed following this compliance inspection.

EAO C&E is unaware of any adverse effects as a result of this non-compliance.

Compliance:

Out



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Types of Compliance:	Operations
Requirement Description:	<p>Commitment #83 of Schedule B</p> <p>The Certificate Holder will provide regular opportunities for First Nations and Aboriginal communities to review environmental monitoring and reclamation results for the Brule Project, and to provide input to evolving monitoring programs and reclamation plans.</p>
Findings:	<p>Letters from the Conuma to Blueberry River First Nation, Saulteau First Nation, West Moberly First Nation, McLeod Lake Indian Band and the Halfway River First Nation were provided as proof of compliance with this requirement. As these letters may contain sensitive information, they will not be attached to this inspection record.</p> <p>The letters do provide proof that Conuma have reached out to First Nations and Aboriginal communities regarding environmental monitoring and reclamation results.</p>
Compliance:	In

Types of Compliance:	Operations									
Requirement Description:	<p>Commitment #96 of Schedule B</p> <p>The Certificate Holder will advertise job opportunities in Tumbler Ridge and Chetwynd and, wherever possible, require contractors to implement the company goal of maximizing local employment.</p>									
Findings:	<p>On July 14, 2017, CALDWELL provided C&E Carlson with the following evidence to support compliance with this requirement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Examples of two advertisements that were posted as employment opportunities for the Brule and Willow Creek Mines (Appendices C and D).• A list of advertisement locations and dates were also provided. This list included the following locations/media outlets: <table><tr><td>Advertisement Location</td><td>Start Date</td><td>End Date</td></tr><tr><td>Burns Lake News-LDN</td><td>21-Dec</td><td>11-Jan</td></tr><tr><td>Coffee Talk Chetwynd</td><td>Dec 23</td><td>Present</td></tr></table>	Advertisement Location	Start Date	End Date	Burns Lake News-LDN	21-Dec	11-Jan	Coffee Talk Chetwynd	Dec 23	Present
Advertisement Location	Start Date	End Date								
Burns Lake News-LDN	21-Dec	11-Jan								
Coffee Talk Chetwynd	Dec 23	Present								



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	Fort St James Caledonia Courier-CCO	21-Dec	11-Jan
	Grande Cache Mountaineer	Dec	Jan 5
	Houston Today-HTO	21-Dec	11-Jan
	Indeed.ca	Dec28	Present
	P.G. Citizen - PRD	22-Dec	12-Jan
	Quesnel Cariboo Observer-QCO	23-Dec	13-Jan
	Red Deer Advocate	Dec 21	Jan 12
	Red Deer Advocate	Mar 10	Mar 17
	Regina PostMedia	Jan 24	Feb
	Saskatoon PostMedia	Jan 24	Feb
	Smithers Interior News-SIN	21-Dec	11-Jan
	Terrace Standard-TST	21-Dec	11-Jan
	Tumbler Ridge News	29-Dec	Present
	Williams Lake Tribune-WLT	23-Dec	13-Jan
	WorkBC	Dec28	Present
	Jobsearchonline.bc.ca	Sept 13	Present
According to the information provided, both Chetwynd and Tumbler Ridge still have open advertisements running. The information provided supports a determination for compliance with this requirement.			
Compliance:	In		

Types of Compliance:	Operations
Requirement Description:	Commitment #102 of Schedule B The Certificate Holder will provide cultural awareness training to on-site staff.
Findings:	On August 9, 2017, an update was provided by Conuma representative Dan MCNEIL, with



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	<p>the following statement:</p> <p><i>This information is given to all personnel as they are hired on, as part of their New Hire package. Includes Conuma cultural awareness on policies such as smoking, harassment, etc.</i></p> <p>The revised general orientation provides evidence of MCNEIL's statement above on slide 12.</p> <p>Slide 12 states the following:</p> <p>Conuma Coal Has a ZERO tolerance for unlawful discriminatory or harassing conduct.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This policy provides <i>all</i> employees and contractors a work environment free from all forms of illegal discrimination including: race, colour, religion, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, age, nationality, disability, or other status; this includes any inappropriate action toward a person, including sexual harassment. ➤ <i>Conuma Coal will</i> enforce disciplinary action against any person who violates this policy. ➤ Complaints and investigations will be handled with utmost of confidentiality, without bias and prejudgement. <p>The General Orientation is attached as Appendix G.</p> <p>The above, in conjunction with the training records reviewed as proof of compliance with Commitment #62, appears to provide evidence of compliance with this requirement.</p>
Compliance:	In

Types of Compliance:	Operations
Requirement Description:	<p>Commitment #105 of Schedule B</p> <p>The Certificate Holder commits to complete riprapping and outer surfacing of SP2 prior to influent flow.</p>
Findings:	See the attached images:


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SP 2 with riprap.



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	<p> Date & Time: Tue Jun 20 10:01:23 MST 2017 Position: +055.37942° / -121.80990° Altitude: 986m Datum: WGS-84 Azimuth/Bearing: 053° N53E 0942mils (Magnetic) Elevation Angle: -00.4° Horizon Angle: -00.7° Zoom: 1X </p>  <p>SP2 with riprap.</p> <p>SP2 has been riprapped. According to CALDWELL, rip rap was completed prior to influent flow.</p> <p>The above evidence provides evidence of compliance with this requirement.</p>
Compliance:	In

Types of Compliance:	Operations
Requirement Description:	<p>Commitment #115 of Schedule B</p> <p>The Certificate Holder will contribute to regional efforts related to caribou management planning. Participation by the Certificate Holder will be in the context of an overall strategy led by government for cumulative effects management, and commensurate with our level of impact on key factors affecting populations.</p>
Findings:	On July 11, 2017, CALDWELL provided C&E Carlson with a transmittal from Conuma to MEM Senior Project Lead, Lisa Payne regarding attending a meeting with MEM and FLNRO



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	<p>regarding a discussion about Caribou. The transmittal identifies that Conuma representatives are willing to attend this meeting.</p> <p>The provided information provides proof that the Project is willing to be involved with the Province regarding caribou management planning.</p> <p>On August 9, 2017, an update was provided by Conuma representative Dan MCNEIL with the following additional context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>2010 - Ongoing funding is being provided for caribou collaring to support mapping of NEBC caribou herd movements. WCC remains willing to participate in caribou management planning efforts led by government.</i> • <i>2014 – Walter Energy contribute to regional efforts by participating in strategy meetings attended by a variety of stakeholders as well as donating to management plans aimed to stabilize the regional caribou populations.</i> • <i>2017 – This is mainly an upper level item; Conuma President attends meetings with government regarding provincial initiatives on caribou. Also have draft Caribou Monitoring and Mitigation Plan ready for submission.</i> <p>The Draft Caribou Monitoring and Mitigation plan was provided (Appendix H).</p> <p>The above appears to provide some evidence of compliance with this requirement. More information is required to make a compliance determination.</p> <p>EAO C&E will follow-up on this in a future inspection.</p>
Compliance:	Not Determined

Actions Required by Proponent(s) & Additional Comments:	
None at this time.	
Inspection Conducted by: Justin Carlson	
Signature: Justin Carlson, Environmental Assessment Compliance and Enforcement Officer	Date Signed: 2017-08-29



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Enclosure(s) to Proponent(s) & Description:	
Appendix A- Environmental Orientation Brule and Willow Creek REVISED 2017 Appendix B- The Brule Mine 5 Year Mine & Reclamation Program Report (2014 through 2018) Appendix C- Career Ad Dec 16 Appendix D- Career Ad Feb 23 Appendix E- Wildlife Management Plan 2017 Appendix F- Waste Management Plan 2017 Appendix G- General Orientation Appendix H- Draft Caribou Mitigation and Monitoring Plan 2017	
Regulatory Consideration:	
Another inspection is recommended.	

Environmental Assessment Office	Mailing Address: PO Box 9426 Stn Prov Govt Victoria BC V8W 9V1	Telephone: 250 387-0131 Fax: 250 387-2208 Email: eao.compliance@gov.bc.ca Website: http://www.eao.gov.bc.ca
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