




COLORADO DIVISION OF RECLAMATION, MINING AND SAFETY
MINERALS PROGRAM INSPECTION REPORT
PHONE: (303) 866-3567

The Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety has conducted an inspection of the mining operation noted below. This report documents observations concerning compliance with the terms of the permit and applicable rules and regulations of the Mined Land Reclamation Board.

MINE NAME: Willow Creek Mine	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1983-011	MINERAL: Gold	COUNTY: Lake
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	INSPECTOR(S): Dustin M. Czapla	INSP. DATE: September 2, 2015	INSP. TIME: 13:30
OPERATOR: Mt. Elbert Mining Co., L.L.C.	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:	TYPE OF OPERATION: 112 - Hard Rock Regular Operation	

REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: Complete Bond	BOND AMOUNT: \$42,467.00
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None
WEATHER: Clear	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: September 15, 2015

The following inspection topics were identified as having Problems or Possible Violations. OPERATORS SHOULD READ THE FOLLOWING PAGES CAREFULLY IN ORDER TO ASSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE PERMIT AND APPLICABLE RULES AND REGULATIONS. If a Possible Violation is indicated, you will be notified under separate cover as to when the Mined Land Reclamation Board will consider possible enforcement action.

INSPECTION TOPIC: Availability Of Records

PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION: Problem: Rule 1.13.5 states, if an Operator temporarily ceases production of the mining operation for one hundred eighty (180) days or more, the Operator must file a Notice of Temporary Cessation in writing to the Office.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: The Operator shall file a Notice of Temporary Cessation. The commencement date of the initial 5 year Temporary Cessation period is retroactive to the last date the pit was active.

CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE: 10/16/15

OBSERVATIONS

This was a routine monitoring inspection. A representative for the operator was not present. Photographs are included with this report in order to illustrate the conditions observed.

The Willow Creek Mine is located approximately 9.6 miles southwest of Leadville and accessed from CR24. The site is a 112 operation that includes a total of 43.38 permitted acres. The Division currently holds a financial warranty amount of \$42,467.00 for this site. The financial warranty amount is adequate to reclaim the site based on existing conditions.

Adequate mine identification signage was noted at the entrance to the site.

The affected area is marked with t-posts and fencing that are clearly visible and adequate to delineate the permit area.

The site has not operated since September 2014. Pursuant to Rule 1.13.5, if the operator temporarily ceases production of the mining operation for one hundred eighty days or more, the operator must file a Notice of Temporary Cessation. The operator has not filed notice.

The shop building and shed were locked and appeared secure. No signs of vandalism were evident. An excavator, loaders, camp trailer and other various equipment were parked around the shop area. No equipment leaks were noted. The fuel tanks were placed inside adequate secondary containment. The processing equipment was secure. The generator was locked and the shed was boarded up.

The process ponds contained several feet of water. Seepage from the impoundments was not noted.

Vegetation is becoming well established on the USFS slope on the west side of the permit area. The USFS area at the base of the slope still requires topsoil and seeding.

Stormwater control structures have been installed along the USFS boundary. A rip-rap channel and detention pond have been constructed on the north and south sides of the USFS area.

Mining has re-disturbed some of the reclaimed slope on the north side of the USFS area. A highwall approximately 60 feet long by 10 feet high, with a slope approximately 0.5H:1V, has been created. The mining plan requires that all slopes be maintained at 3H:1V or less. If the operator does not comply with this requirement the financial warranty will need to be increased accordingly. A second dig area has been created just north of the process area. The pit slope in this area also exceeds 3H:1V.

An area of approximately ½ acre in the north part of the permit area has been stripped of topsoil. The topsoil has been stockpiled on the southwest side of this disturbance. The operator should be aware that additional financial warranty will be required prior to mining this area, and prior to opening up any additional mining areas.

The wooded area on the east side of mining area is still littered with random equipment and junk.

No other problems or violations were noted.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Figure 1: Mine entrance



Figure 2: Shop area



Figure 3: Shop area



Figure 4: Shop area



Figure 5: Shop area



Figure 6: Upper pond, on south side of road



Figure 7: Pond on north side of road



Figure 8: South retention pond at base of USFS slope



Figure 9: Reclaimed USFS slope



Figure 10: North retention pond at base of USFS slope



Figure 11: Process area



Figure 12: Process area



Figure 13: Process area



Figure 14: Process area



Figure 15: Redisturbed slope on north side of USFS slope



Figure 16: Dig area north of process area



Figure 17: North 1/2 acre area stripped of stockpile



Figure 18: Wooded "junk" area



Figure 19: Wooded "junk" area



Figure 20: Wooded "junk" area



Figure 21: Wooded "junk" area



Figure 22: Wooded "junk" area

GENERAL INSPECTION TOPICS

The following list identifies the environmental and permit parameters inspected and gives a categorical evaluation of each

(AR) RECORDS----- <u>PB</u>	(FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY----- <u>Y</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>Y</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>Y</u>	(BG) BACKFILL & GRADING----- <u>Y</u>	(EX) EXPLOSIVES----- <u>NA</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- <u>NA</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>Y</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>Y</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>Y</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>Y</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>N</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>Y</u>	(SW) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>N</u>	(CI) COMPLETE INSP---- <u>Y</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>NA</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>Y</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>N</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>Y</u>	(OD) OFF-SITE DAMAGE----- <u>NA</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>NA</u>

Y = Inspected and found in compliance / N = Not inspected / NA = Not applicable to this operation / PB = Problem cited / PV = Possible violation cited

Inspection Contact Address

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