


**COLORADO**Division of Reclamation,  
Mining and Safety

Department of Natural Resources

**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.

<b>MINE NAME:</b> SR-11 Mine	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1977-451	<b>MINERAL:</b> Uranium and vanadium	<b>COUNTY:</b> San Miguel
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> G. Russell Means	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> August 31, 2016	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 10:00
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Cotter Corporation	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Jim Sheridan	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 112d-1 - Designated Mining Operation	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Normal I&E Program	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> IT.Bondcalculationtype.CD.Desc	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$100.00	
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> None	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> U.S. Energy	
<b>WEATHER:</b> Clear	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> September 7, 2016	

**GENERAL INSPECTION TOPICS**

This list identifies the environmental and permit parameters inspected and gives a categorical evaluation of each. No problems or possible violations were noted during the inspection. The mine operation was found to be in full compliance with Mineral Rules and Regulations of the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board for the Extraction of Construction Materials and/or for Hard Rock, Metal and Designated Mining Operations. Any person engaged in any mining operation shall notify the office of any failure or imminent failure, as soon as reasonably practicable after such person has knowledge of such condition or of any impoundment, embankment, or slope that poses a reasonable potential for danger to any persons or property or to the environment; or any environmental protection facility designed to contain or control chemicals or waste which are acid or toxic-forming, as identified in the permit.

(AR) RECORDS----- <u>Y</u>	(FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY----- <u>N</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>N</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>N</u>	(BG) BACKFILL & GRADING----- <u>Y</u>	(EX) EXPLOSIVES----- <u>NA</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING----- <u>N</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>N</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>Y</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>Y</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>NA</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION----- <u>N</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>Y</u>	(SP) 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>N</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>N</u>

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

## **OBSERVATIONS**

This inspection is part of the normal inspection schedule for Designated Mining Operations by the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety (Division). The inspection was a joint agency inspection with Department of Energy (DOE) and their contractor Navarro. The group was represented by: Russel Edge, Nicole Olin, Ed Cotter, Kyle Turley and Brian Mangan. Jim Sheridan, Cotter's representative, accompanied the inspector on site as well.

The SR-11 Mine is a 112d-1 permit, located southwest of Slick Rock in Western Montrose County. An Environmental Protection Plan was approved in October of 2013. DOE lease tract projects are currently under a court ordered stay preventing any activities other than site maintenance and emergency repairs. Therefore this inspection is only noting current site conditions and immediate problems. The underground was not visited due to no activity.

The mine identification sign and affected area boundary markers are in place and in compliance with Rule 3.1.12. The sign is located on the gate at the entrance to the site. Permit boundaries were observed as t-posts with the affected area marked by an earthen berm.

The portal is secured by a locked steel gate attached to steel sets. The only structure on site is an office / mine dry trailer. No mining equipment is located on the surface currently.

Mining activity at the site is documented as occurring in 2005. That is when the main drift development was initiated. No uranium ore was encountered during that period. It is estimated that there was still a 1000 feet or more development drift to be constructed prior to any ore body interception.

The surface disturbance is approximately 5 acres. The main waste dump is being used to develop a working / staging area for the mine. Slopes are 2:1 or natural angle of repose. As noted in previous inspections some minor riling of the waste slopes has occurred but appears to be stable. Sedimentation from this area is being collected in the stripped areas just below the toe of the slopes by a collection ditch. Storm water from this area and the disturbance footprint in general is collected and directed to a sedimentation pond in the southeast portion of the permit area. Based on the wet season, observations note the system is collecting the on-site precipitation and sedimentation and none is being allowed to leave. Storm water run-on has been deflected by an up gradient berm and ditch and is not impacted the disturbed areas.

The topsoil pile is vegetated to prevent erosional losses. A previous problem with noxious weeds has been addressed. A few new growth viable shrubs were observed. The operator stated that spraying would be occurring in mid-September and the plants were flagged and would be addressed.

Natural volunteer vegetation is coming in. Sagebrush, rabbit brush, and some four-winged saltbush were observed. The operator has spread some grass seed as well. Spiked wheatgrass, Indian rice grass and others were noted to be doing very well along the storm water collection ditch in particular.

No issues or problems are cited at this time.

Responses to this inspection report should be directed to Russ Means at the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, Grand Junction Field Office, 101 South 3rd Street, Room 301, Grand Junction, Colorado 81501, phone no. 970-241-1117.

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