



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.

MINE NAME: Thorson Mine	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1981-020	MINERAL: Anhydrite, gypsum	COUNTY: Fremont
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	INSPECTOR(S): Timothy A. Cazier	INSP. DATE: February 16, 2017	INSP. TIME: 13:50
OPERATOR: Indian Springs Ranch, LLP	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Ina Finch	TYPE OF OPERATION: 110c - Construction Limited Impact	
REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: Partial Bond	BOND AMOUNT: \$2,500.00	
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None	
WEATHER: Clear	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: February 17, 2017	

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>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>Y</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>Y</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>Y</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>Y</u>	(CI) COMPLETE INSP---- <u>Y</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>Y</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>Y</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>NA</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>NA</u>	(OD) OFF-SITE DAMAGE----- <u>Y</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>Y</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 was conducted as part of the regular monitoring program. The Operator was represented by Bennie Thorson and Ina Finch, who were both present for the inspection. This is a 110c gypsum mine.

The Thorson Mine is located approximately 2 miles west of Phantom Canyon Road (Hwy 67), about 4 miles north of US Hwy 50 between Penrose and Cañon City, CO. It was not active at the time of the inspection.

Inspection:

Markers & Boundary – A permit sign was displayed at the site entrance (see **Photo 1**).

Mining Plan – No deviations from the approved mining plan were observed. Ms. Finch indicated no mining activity had occurred since the previous inspection (on September 26, 2012). Some backfilling or grading to knock down the short highwalls (see **Photo 2**) may be required for final reclamation. A small screen and conveyor were also observed (see **Photo 3**).

For the purpose of exiting the current temporary cessation status, the Division will require some mining activity that may include: excavation, processing (e.g., screening and or crushing), stockpiling, and/or hauling product.

Reclamation – Ms. Finch indicated they have not seeded any areas, but much of the site exhibits some level of self/natural revegetation. The Operator should be aware that in accordance with the approved reclamation plan, the excavated areas of the mine are to be graded to match the natural slopes that vary between 2H:1V and 4H:1V.

Environmental – No problems with erosion/sedimentation or noxious weeds were observed.

Records:

- **Revisions:** **Temporary Cessation** (TC-01) was approved and began on March 11, 2013. If mining has not re-initiated by March 10, 2018 and the Operator wishes to continue mining the site, they should apply to the Mined Land Reclamation board for an additional 5 years of Temporary Cessation.
- **Commitments/Stipulations:** None
- **Other Records**
 - a) The total permitted area is 9.8 acres (based on the original application fee calculated on 9.8 acres as stated on the original application cover page).
 - b) The previous inspection was performed on 9/26/2012. No problems were cited.
 - c) The anniversary date is May 6. Annual reports and fees are current through 2016. The reported affected area for the last two annual reports has been a consistent 1 acre. However, current Google Earth imagery indicates about one half acre of disturbance.
 - d) The post-mine land use is rangeland.

Bond:

The Division currently holds a \$2,500 bond which is considered adequate for the current disturbed area (0.5 +/- acres). The Operator should be aware that this bond is insufficient for the maximum allowed disturbance of 9.8 acres.

Summary and Recommendations:

1. No problems or concerns were observed during the inspection.
2. To avoid requesting an additional 5-year period of temporary cessation from the Mined land Reclamation Board, the Operator should engage in mining activity as discussed above prior to March 10, 2018.
3. When mining resumes, the Operator will need to notify the Division within 30 days of resuming mining.
4. The bond is adequate for the current disturbance. However, should the affected area be increased, the bond will likely need to increase as well.

Please contact Tim Cazier (303-866-3567, ext. 8169) if you have any questions regarding this report.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1. Permit sign.

PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)



Photo 2. Most recent active area & screen (looking SE).



Photo 3. Conveyor.

Inspection Contact Address

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ec: DRMS file