



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: Rock School Lease Experimental Nahcolite M	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1999-051	MINERAL: Carbonates	COUNTY: Rio Blanco
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	INSPECTOR(S): Travis Marshall	INSP. DATE: March 27, 2018	INSP. TIME: 14:30
OPERATOR: Natural Soda LLC	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Kirk Daehling	TYPE OF OPERATION: 112 - Hard Rock Regular Operation	

REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: Complete Bond	BOND AMOUNT: \$122,494.25
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: U.S.BLM	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None
WEATHER: Clear	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: April 3, 2018

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: Signs & Markers

PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION: Problem: The mine identification sign was not posted at the entrance of the mine site. This is a problem for failure to post a mine identification sign as required by Section 3.1.12(1) of the rule.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: The operator shall, at the entrance of the mine site, post a sign which shall be clearly visible from the access road with the following: the name of the operator, a statement that a reclamation permit for the operation has been issued by the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board; and the permit number. The operator shall submit photo documentation that a proper sign has been posted by the corrective action date.

CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE: 5/4/18

OBSERVATIONS

This inspection was conducted by the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety as part of the normal monitoring program. The site is a 1320.10 acre sodium bicarbonate in-situ solution mine located approximately 35 miles southwest of Meeker in the Piceance Basin. The site is currently classified as a 112 Hard Rock Minerals Mine but once mining commences it will be required to convert to a 112d-3. Kirk Daehling of Natural Soda and Gerald Daub of Daub & Associates were both present during the inspection.

The maximum allowed disturbance is 48.10 acres and the current disturbance is approximately 2 acres. Mining has not commenced and the only operations that have taken place are the ongoing hydrology monitoring program.

All hydrology monitoring pads and wells were observed during the inspection. The hydrology pads were covered with volunteer vegetation consisting of grasses and shrubs primarily broom snakeweed, sage brush and rubber rabbit brush. No changes have occurred since the July 2013 site inspection.

A required routine reclamation cost update will be conducted and sent under separate cover.

One problem was identified during the inspection. A sign was not observed at the main entrance to the site. Failure to post a mine identification sign as required by Section 3.1.12(1) of the rule is noted as a problem with a corrective action deadline of May 4, 2018.

No off site damage or erosion control issues were observed.

Photos that show the conditions observed during the inspection are included at the end of this report.

If you need more information regarding this inspection report please contact Travis Marshall in the DRMS Grand Junction Field Office at (970) 241-2042.

PHOTOGRAPHS



GENERAL INSPECTION TOPICS

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

(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>NA</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>NA</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>PB</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>Y</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>Y</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>NA</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>Y</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>NA</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>NA</u>	(OD) OFF-SITE DAMAGE----- <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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