




**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> Vermillion Creek Borrow Area	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-2015-027	<b>MINERAL:</b> Borrow	<b>COUNTY:</b> Moffat
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Amy C. Yeldell	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> July 17, 2018	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 10:00
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Rancho Greco Limited	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> John Raftopoulos	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 110c – Reclamation Only	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Normal I&E Program	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> Complete Bond	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$29,206.00	
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> DRMS	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None	
<b>WEATHER:</b> Clear	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> July 24, 2018	

**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>N</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>Y</u>	(BG) BACKFILL & GRADING----- <u>Y</u>	(EX) EXPLOSIVES----- <u>NA</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- <u>N</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>NA</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>NA</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>N</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>N</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>N</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>Y</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>Y</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>NA</u>	(OD) OFF-SITE DAMAGE----- <u>N</u>	

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

The following inspection topic was identified as having a Problem. OPERATORS SHOULD READ THE FOLLOWING PAGES CAREFULLY IN ORDER TO ASSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE PERMIT AND APPLICABLE RULES AND REGULATIONS.

**INSPECTION TOPIC:** Signs & Markers

**PROBLEM:** The mine identification sign and affected area boundary markers were not observed per the requirements of Rule 3.1.12.

**CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:** The operator must post a sign at the entrance to the mine site which shall be clearly visible from the access road and specify the following; the name of the operator, indicate that a reclamation permit for the operation has been issued by the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board, and the permit number. The permit boundary must be marked by monuments or other markers that are clearly visible and adequate to delineate the permit boundary.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE:** 9/24/18

**OBSERVATIONS**

This inspection was conducted as part of the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) normal monitoring program. John Raftopoulos represented Rancho Greco Limited and accompanied Amy Yeldell of the Division on the inspection. The Vermillion Creek Borrow Area is a 110(c) reclamation only permit that includes a total of 4.3 acres on Bureau of Land Management land. This site is located 45 miles northwest of Maybell, CO and is accessed from State Highway 318.

No mine sign or permit boundaries were present. This is cited as a problem. The operator shall post a mine sign at the mine entrance that contains the following information; (a) the name of the Operator; (b) a statement that a reclamation permit for the operation has been issued by the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board; and (c) the permit number. Secondly the permit boundary shall be clearly marked to delineate the boundary.

No changes have occurred to the site since the pre-enforcement inspection. The site remains inactive and no further damage or mining has occurred. No fuel, structures, equipment, or stockpiles are on site. Also no final reclamation work has been completed to date. The operator is still waiting on resolution from other state and federal agencies. Mr. Raftopoulos indicated that the NRCS should be coming to their decision soon which means further reclamation in the wetland areas can begin.

There is evidence of cattle grazing based on ground roughening. After reclaimed areas are seeded it is recommended that the cows be kept off until reclamation is considered sustainable to withstand grazing pressures.

The highwall cut remains near vertical and intact. There has been no major sloughing or regrading. A Few greasewood bushes have begun to volunteer. At the toe of the highwall more vegetation has volunteered though the majority of which is Kochia and Halogeton which are non-desirable species.

The Riparian area appears to be mostly self-reclaimed. The moist areas to the south of the bridge appear to be lush and repaired. The northern areas are still slightly dry and have less riparian plants growing. The northern

area also has some weeds such as toadflax, tamarisk and nutsedge. The area adjacent to the bridge (within approximately 50 feet) has little vegetation which is likely due to cattle traffic and use of the bridge.

The southwest corner of the riparian area appears to have meet the reclamation requirements. The operator may wish to request an acreage reduction to remove this area form the permit. Attached is the release request form. Please include a map depicting the area you wish to release and the acreage associated with the release. At the inspection it was discussed that all of phase 2 would be releasable however due to the weeds and low densities near the bridge and northern areas the Division does not recommend this at this time.

It was discussed about a possible technical revision to change the approved seed mix. Note that this site has a riparian and dry land seed mix. Make it clear which mix is changing and state the species, PLS and variety for each area to be seeded.

The Division currently requires a financial warranty amount of \$29,206 for this site. In an effort to ensure the Financial Warranty adequately, reflects the actual current cost of fulfilling the requirements of the approved reclamation plan the Division will be updating the reclamation cost estimate. If the current bond is found to be insufficient the Division will send a Notice of Surety Increase under a separate cover.

Responses to this inspection report should be directed to: Amy Yeldell at the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, 1313 Sherman St., Room 215, Denver, CO 80203. Direct contact can be made by phone at 970-254-8511 or via email at amy.yeldell@state.co.us

CC:

Wally Erickson, Senior EPS, Grand Junction DRMS  
Jennifer Maiolo, Little Snake River Field Office, BLM

**Inspection Contact Address**

John Raftopoulos  
Rancho Greco Limited  
351 School St  
Craig, CO 81625

Enclosure

**PHOTOGRAPHS**









## COLORADO DIVISION OF RECLAMATION, MINING AND SAFETY

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, Colorado 80203 ph(303) 866-3567

### REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL REVISION (TR) COVER SHEET

File No.: M- \_\_\_\_\_ Site Name: \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ TR# \_\_\_\_\_ (DRMS Use only)

Permittee: \_\_\_\_\_

Operator (If Other than Permittee): \_\_\_\_\_

Permittee Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide a brief description of the proposed revision: \_\_\_\_\_

As defined by the Minerals Rules, a Technical Revision (TR) is: “a change in the permit or application which does not have more than a minor effect upon the approved or proposed Reclamation or Environmental Protection Plan.” The Division is charged with determining if the revision as submitted meets this definition. If the Division determines that the proposed revision is beyond the scope of a TR, the Division may require the submittal of a permit amendment to make the required or desired changes to the permit.

The request for a TR is not considered “filed for review” until the appropriate fee is received by the Division (as listed below by permit type). Please submit the appropriate fee with your request to expedite the review process. After the TR is submitted with the appropriate fee, the Division will determine if it is approvable within 30 days. If the Division requires additional information to approve a TR, you will be notified of specific deficiencies that will need to be addressed. If at the end of the 30 day review period there are still outstanding deficiencies, the Division must deny the TR unless the permittee requests additional time, in writing, to provide the required information.

There is no pre-defined format for the submittal of a TR; however, it is up to the permittee to provide sufficient information to the Division to approve the TR request, including updated mining and reclamation plan maps that accurately depict the changes proposed in the requested TR.

Required Fees for Technical Revision by Permit Type - Please mark the correct fee and submit it with your request for a Technical Revision.

<u>Permit Type</u>	<u>Required TR Fee</u>	<u>Submitted</u> (mark only one)
110c, 111, 112 construction materials, and 112 quarries	\$216	<input type="checkbox"/>
112 hard rock (not DMO)	\$175	<input type="checkbox"/>
110d, 112d(1, 2 or 3)	\$1006	<input type="checkbox"/>



**COLORADO**

**Division of Reclamation,  
Mining and Safety**

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215  
Denver, CO 80203

**REQUEST FOR FULL OR PARTIAL RELEASE OF PERMIT AREA/SURETY REDUCTION**

Please indicate if you are requesting:

FULL/FINAL RELEASE OF ENTIRE PERMITTED AREA (per Rule 4.17)

\_\_\_\_\_

ACREAGE REDUCTION (PARTIAL RELEASE per Rule 4.17)

\_\_\_\_\_

I wish to release \_\_\_\_\_ acres at this time.

You will need to submit with this request: a map showing the acreage to be released from the current permit and updated mining and reclamation plan maps that will accurately depict the new permit boundary if the release is approved.

SURETY (Bond) REDUCTION (per Rule 4.14)

\_\_\_\_\_

If you are requesting a surety (bond) reduction you will need to include with this request a new estimate of the actual cost to reclaim the site based on what it would cost an independent contractor to complete reclamation, including unit costs for reclamation activities as appropriate to the operation to comply with the provisions of Rule 3.1 and the Permit's approved Reclamation Plan.

File No.: M \_\_\_\_\_

Site Name: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Permittee: \_\_\_\_\_

Permittee Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street Address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(State)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Zip)



Operator (If Other than Permittee): \_\_\_\_\_  
Permittee Representative: \_\_\_\_\_  
Certified Mail # \_\_\_\_\_

In accordance with Rule 4.17.1(2) the Operator shall include the names, addresses and phone numbers of all owners of record to the affected land. Please attach additional sheets for this information if required.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

In accordance with Rule 4.17.1(4), if requesting a partial acreage release the Operator or their agent MUST sign that they have complied with the following statement: “All applicable portions of the Reclamation Plan requirements have been satisfied in accordance with these Rules and all applicable requirements under the Act.”

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Permittee, Operator or their authorized agent      Date

*Important: In accordance with Rules 4.14.2(a) and 4.17.1(3) This release request must be submitted to the Division via certified mail and separate from any other correspondence to the Division.*