

**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:	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:	MINERAL:	COUNTY:	
Hansen Uranium Project	P-2009-025	Uranium	Fremont	
INSPECTION TYPE:	INSPECTOR(S):	INSP. DATE:	INSP. TIME:	
Monitoring	Timothy A. Cazier	June 14, 2018	10:15	
OPERATOR:	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b>	TYPE OF OPERATION:		
Black Range Minerals Colorado, LLC	Mike Rutter	MP - Mineral Prospecting		
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b>	BOND CALCULATION TYPE:	BOND AMOUNT:		
Normal I&e Program	Partial Bond	\$154,936.58		
DATE OF COMPLAINT:	POST INSP. CONTACTS:	JOINT INSP. AGENCY:		
NA	U.S.BLM	U.S.BLM		
WEATHER:	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:	SIGNATURE DATE:		
Clear	Thing US=	November 28, 2018		

# **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 Y	(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 NA	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES NA	(TS) TOPSOIL <u>Y</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>Y</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE <u>Y</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION Y
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS <u>NA</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN NA	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP Y
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE <u>NA</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION $\underline{Y}$	(ST) STIPULATIONS Y
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS NA	(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

#### **OBSERVATIONS**

This inspection was conducted by Tim Cazier (DRMS) as part of the regular monitoring program to assess compliance with the approved Notice of Intent (NOI) prospecting permit. Mr. Mark Rutter was present for the inspection, representing the Prospector (Black Range Minerals). Ms. Stephanie Carter was also present, representing the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The Hansen Project site is accessed from Fremont Co Rd 21 and is located approximately 10 miles off Hwy 9 from the intersection with Fremont County Road 2. This is uranium prospecting operation. It was not active at the time of the inspection.

<u>Availability of Records</u>: Annual fees are paid through October 2018. The previous inspection was on September 15, 2015. There are no open infractions. The surface and minerals are a mix of both privately owned and federally managed lands.

<u>Acid And Toxic Materials</u>: Other than uranium ore samples previously taken, no acid or toxic materials are involved in this operation.

<u>Backfilling and Grading</u>: Drill access roads to boreholes and monitoring wells that have been abandoned are in the process of reclamation. Recontouring has occurred (see **Photo 1**). The earthwork required for reclamation of the drill pads has been completed for the sites visited during the inspection: MWC-109, HNDD0003, HNDD0006, HNDD0007, HNDD0010, HNDD0011, MW-27-290, MW-27-291, MW-27-292, MW-27-293, and MW-27-294. Mr. Rutter indicated Black Range intends to release the vibrating wire piezometers (VWP) (HNDD0003, HNDD0005, HNDD0006, HNDD0007, HNDD0009, and HNDD0011). Additional abandonment procedures required by the Colorado Division of Water Resources (DWR) are discussed below under "Hydrologic Balance". After this additional work is completed, Black Range should request a partial release for these VWPs.

<u>Financial Warranty:</u> The \$154,936.58 bond held by the Division is adequate for the observed disturbance.

Fish and Wildlife: No impact to wildlife was observed.

<u>Hydrologic Balance</u>: During the inspection, the proper abandonment of vibrating wire piezometers (VWP) was discussed. After this inspection, the DRMS confirmed with Doug Stephenson (DWR well inspector) that piezometers installed in grout need only have wires removed and if a path to groundwater is present, a cement cap must be added in order to properly abandon the piezometer bore hole.

<u>Gen. Compliance with Mine Plan</u>: The operation appeared to be in compliance with the approved NOI. The maximum allowed disturbance is 4.5 acres. Site observations indicate Black Range is well below this limit. Mr. Rutter indicated the future plan is to properly abandon the VWPs and continue monitoring the groundwater from the monitoring wells.

<u>Roads</u>: Access roads did not appear to be a source of sediment that could be tracked offsite as they were for the most part revegetated (see **Photos 2** and **3**).

<u>Reclamation Success</u>: Reclamation has been initiated as discussed under "Backfilling and Grading" above.

<u>Revegetation</u>: Revegetation efforts on the drill pads was observed to be satisfactory (see **Photos 1** and **4**). No significant amount of noxious weeds were observed. However, some field bindweed was observed near the MW-27-290 and 291 monitoring wells (see **Photo 5**)

<u>Sediment Control</u>: No erosion problems were observed and no BMPs were needed at the time of the inspection. Some silt fences have come down (see **Photos 6** and **7**), are no longer necessary and should be removed. **BMPs** (silt fence, etc.) can and should be removed at all drill sites visited during this inspection.

<u>Permit Stipulations</u>: The NOI requires the following for mud pit monitoring: contents and cover of the backfilled mud pits will not exceed the following limits:

- 1) The concentration of radium 226 or radium 228 may not exceed the background level by more than 5 picocuries per gram (pCi/g).
- 2) The concentration of natural uranium with no radioactive decay products present may not exceed the background level by more than 30 pCi/g.
- 3) Background levels shall be determined by sampling each proposed mud pit location prior to any disturbance associated with the proposed drilling activity.

Storm Water MGT Plan: No oil or fuel spills observed.

<u>Topsoil</u>: All topsoil segregated for the drill pads had been replaced.

Please contact Tim Cazier (303)866-3567 ext. 8169 or email at <u>tim.cazier@state.co.us</u> if you have any questions regarding this report.



## **PHOTOGRAPHS**

Photo 1. Recontouring and revegetation at HNDD0010 drill pad (looking west).

## PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)



Photo 2. Road between HNDD0010 and HNDD0011 (looking north).



Photo 3. Road to HNDD0010 pad (looking NW).

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# PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)



Photo 4. Revegetation at MW-27-292, -293, and -294 (looking north).



Photo 5. Revegetation at MW-27-290, and -291 (looking west; note field bindweed in foreground).

#### PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)



Photo 6. Silt fence and support stakes needing removal at HNDD0011 site.



Photo 7. Silt fence needing removal at HNDD0010 site.

#### **Inspection Contact Address**

Mike Rutter Black Range Minerals Colorado, LLC PO Box 98 Nucla, CO 81424

EC: DRMS File Doug Stephenson, DWR Stephanie Carter, BLM