




**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> Yankee Gulch Minerals Project	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1999-002	<b>MINERAL:</b> Carbonates	<b>COUNTY:</b> Rio Blanco
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Amy C. Yeldell	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> July 30, 2019	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 11:30
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Solvay Chemicals, Inc.	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Celia Akin	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 112d-3 - Designated Mining Operation	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Normal I&E Program	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> None	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$236,424.00	
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> None	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None	
<b>WEATHER:</b> Clear	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> September 9, 2019	

**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>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>N</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>N</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>N</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>Y</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>N</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>N</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>N</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

## **OBSERVATIONS**

This inspection was conducted as part of the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety normal monitoring program. The Yankee Gulch Minerals Project is a 112d (3) Hard Rock permit hat is in final reclamation. The site is located 22 miles southwest of Meeker, CO in Rio Blanco County. Amy Yeldell of the Division conducted the inspection. Celina Akin and Mark Brassette represented Solvay Chemicals, Inc. Paul Daggett of the BLM was also present.

The Division currently requires a financial warranty amount of \$236,424 for this site. It is noted that the BLM holds the majority of the bond and that the Division only holds the required 5% of the total bond amount. The bond was last increased in 2004 with AD-1.

No acreage reductions (AR) have been approved to date. In 2011, AR-1 was submitted but later withdrawn. The entire 4,084 acre site remains permitted. The operator is encouraged to review the permit to see if any of the areas meet the post-mining land use reclamation requirements. Specifically AM-1 was approved in 2008 for this purpose.

The Division walked the pipeline/access roads and pads along the ridge from the plant down to the bottom. General site grading and contouring has been completed in all areas. Affected lands blend nicely into undisturbed areas. Vegetation establishment in these areas was hit or miss. In general areas were nearly all comprised of annual weeds (primarily Russian thistle) or entirely native vegetation with little to no weedy species (noxious or nuisance). Note that though nuisance species are not listed noxious weeds requiring treatment they do not go towards desirable cover. Very few areas were completely void of vegetation or at a threshold that was well below comparable site conditions. The Operator is encouraged to spot spray areas with listed noxious weeds as well as consider treating large clusters of nuisance species where native vegetation densities area low. For any areas where vegetation re-establishment is, poor the Operator may consider some hand broadcast seeding to help jumpstart natural succession and increase overall vegetation establishment.

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 303-866-3567 Ext 8183 or via email at amy.yeldell@state.co.us

### **Inspection Contact Address**

Celina Akin/ Davis Valvoda  
Solvay Chemicals, Inc.  
2717 County Road 215  
Parachute, CO 81635

Enclosure

CC:  
Travis Marshall, Senior EPS, Grand Junction DRMS  
Paul Daggett, BLM

**PHOTOGRAPHS**







