

## Solid Minerals Inspection Report

Bureau of Land Management  
Tres Rios Field Office  
29211 Hwy 184  
Dolores, CO 81323

<b>Type of Operation</b>	3809 Plan of Operations	<b>Project Name</b>	Sunday Mines Complex West Sunday
<b>Serial Number</b>	COC-53227, COC-52049	<b>Company/Org.</b>	PINON RIDGE MINING LLC PO BOX 825 NUCLA CO 81424- 0825
<b>Inspection Date</b>	04/29/2020	<b>Others Present</b>	None
<b>Inspection Time</b>	12:50	<b>Inspected By</b>	James Blair
<b>Report Date</b>	05/11/2020	<b>Legal</b>	T44N, R18W, multiple sections

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### Introduction

The purpose of this inspection was to verify the construction of ore pads at the Sunday and Saint Jude mines (COC-53227), and at the West Sunday Mine (COC-52049). I arrived on site at approximately 12:50 AM. It was about 70 degrees out, with blue skies. Spring vegetation was just beginning to poke up, but it was drier than, while there was some green, it was browner than it might normally have been this time of year. I did not observe any other people during the inspection. The ore pads appeared to be of quality construction from what I was able to observe. A map of the site is followed by captioned photographs showing the ore pads that were visited. The photos are in the order they were taken.

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### Description

I drove to the Sunday mine on San Miguel County Road 14R that goes north from Disappointment Valley over the top of Gypsum Ridge and descends into Big Gypsum Valley Between the Sunday and St. Jude Mines. I parked near the Carnation Portal (figure 1) and walked down to the Ore Pad which was constructed near the western edge of the Sunday area (meaning the specific Sunday Mine, and not the Sunday Mines Complex, which includes all 5 mines). The gate at the west end of the Sunday on the 14 R road was open and unlocked. I walked down to the mine to inspect the ore pad. The ore pad was well constructed. The Salt Wash sandstone that was used compacted very well, into an almost cement-like substrate. Figures 2, 3 and 4 are show the ore pad as-built at the Sunday Mine site. From the Sunday Mine I drove to the Carnation and then to the West Sunday Mine. I parked in front of the locked gate at each and walked to the pad locations. Ore pads at the Saint Jude and West Sunday Mines were built in the same fashion as at the Sunday Mine. Figures 5 and 6 were taken at the St. Jude Mine and photo 7 was taken at the West Sunday Mine. No ore pad was built at the Carnation, because it would only be used for an emergency escapeway, and no photos were taken. I did not visit the Topaz Mine.

All three of the visited mine sites were relatively free of weeds, though it is early in the season for them to be of any size. The road to the West Sunday mine site appears to have been freshly graveled and graded. I did not look closely at any of the buildings or storm water control structures during this inspection, as that was not the purpose, however I did not see any obvious problems from a distance.

**Conclusions**

All three ore pads were constructed in the same fashion and appeared of the same quality. I did not see any liner protruding from either the sides or the top of any of the ore pads. Without destructive testing it would not be possible to determine that they were constructed to spec. The pads did appear to be neat with what appears to be quality, workmanlike construction. Combined with the affidavit submitted to DRMS, I think it can be verified that the pads were constructed to spec.

**Recommendations**

Be observant of how the pads hold up to rain and store water after storm events and to seasonal freeze-thaw events, and whether that affects permeability or compaction. The pads are not yet permitted for ore storage and the bonds have not been adjusted to cover disposal of ore that is left on any pads. When they are in use, the we should be observant of how well the pads hold up under use from loaders and other equipment, in addition to weather conditions.

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James Blair, TRFO Geologist

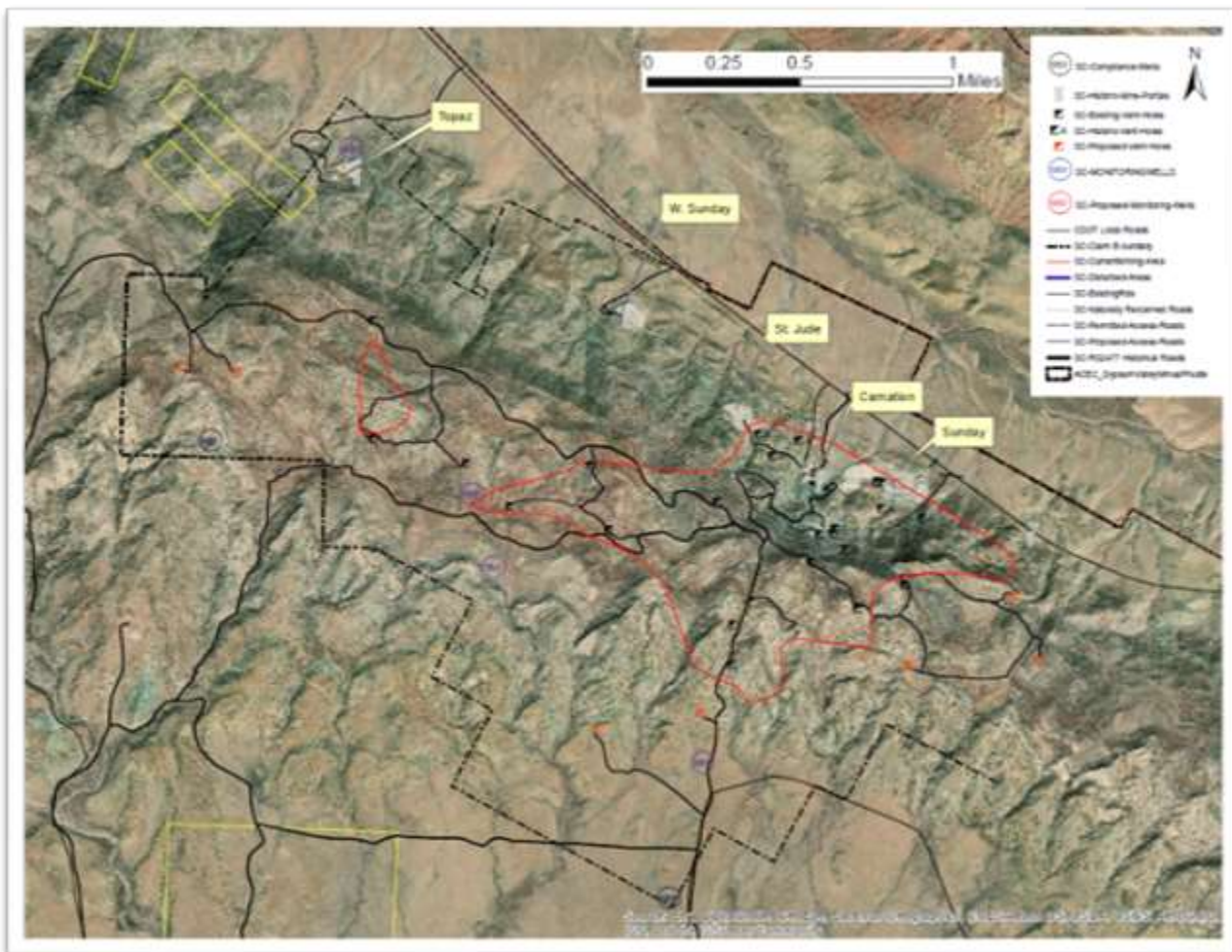


Figure 1: Aerial Photo Map Showing the Sunday Mines Complex. The Inspection was conducted in a general east to west fashion. The Topaz Mine was not visited.



*Figure 2: View from approximately ¼ mile away, looking east towards the Sunday Mine from above on a bend in the 14 R road as it descends into Big Gypsum Valley. The ore pad is inside the red circle.*



*Figure 3: View from approximately 100 feet away, looking northeast across the Sunday Ore pad. Note the raised rim on the upper right side is easy to see because of the angle.*





*Figure 4: View looking across the Sunday ore pad to the northwest, along the axis of Big Gypsum Valley. The La Sal Mountains, Utah are the snow capped peaks. Note that the working surface of the pad is a finer grain size and is more compacted than the sides (and presumably beneath). I did not observe any liner sticking out the sides or through the top.*



*Figure 5: A photo looking northwest across the ore pad at the St. Jude Mine towards the shop building. The drivable berm is along the opposite edge of the photo between the lens and the shop.*



*Figure 6: Photo looking due north along the east edge of the St. Jude ore pad towards Hamm Canyon.*



*Figure 7: A view looking east-northeast across the ore pad at the West Sunday Mine. The San Miguel mountains are in the distance. This pad was constructed the same as the other pads. This photo does a good job of showing the how the drivable berms were constructed along one edge of the ore pad (the south edge, in this case). These berms are where equipment would access and leave to ore pad to load and unload. The other three sides have steeper, non-drivable berms. Construction and workmanship at this pad were similar to that at the St. Jude and the Sunday Mines.*