



COLORADO
**Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety**
Department of Natural Resources

August 5, 2020

Conejos County Road and Bridge
P.O. Box 157
Conejos, CO 81129

RE: Need for State Reclamation Permit, Conejos County Road and Bridge, File No. M-2020-036

To Whom It May Concern:

On July 27, 2020 the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) received your correspondence responding the Division's inquiry, RE: "Is It Mining". The Division has assigned file number M-2020-036 to this project. Please display the file number on any correspondence regarding this specific project.

The information you provided indicates you are proposing to remove two manmade irrigation reservoirs adjacent to irrigable fields. The intent is to use the majority of the material from the earthen dams on site to fill the depression from the reservoir. Approximately 13,000 cubic yards left over material will be required to be removed from the two locations and is proposed to be hauled, stockpiled and potentially at three County shops for use by Conejos County for various projects.

The Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board (Board) has requested the Division make preliminary determinations regarding the need for a mined land reclamation permit. Based on the information provided in your response, it is the Division's opinion the project is a mining operation. Pursuant to Colorado law, you are required to first obtain a mined land reclamation permit from the Board prior to initiating the mining operation. If you disagree with the Division's determination you may petition the Board for a declaratory order whereby you may obtain an exemption from permit requirements. Such request must be made in writing and must be received no later than ten days prior to a regularly scheduled Board meeting. The next available Board meeting is scheduled for September 23-24, 2020.

If you have any questions please contact me at (303) 866-3567 extension 8186, otherwise we look forward to working with you through the permitting process.

Sincerely,

Travis Marshall
Senior Environmental Protection Specialist

ec: Russ Means, DRMS
Lucas West, DRMS

