




**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> Liberty Mine	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-2013-070	<b>MINERAL:</b> Uranium and vanadium	<b>COUNTY:</b> Mesa
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Amy Yeldell	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> October 20, 2020	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 10:00
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Liberty Mining, LLC	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> None	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 110d - Designated Limited Impact	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Normal I&E Program	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> Complete Bond	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$93,862.42	
<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> October 26, 2020	

**GENERAL INSPECTION TOPICS**

Several of the following inspection topics were identified as having a **Problem (PB)**, which includes correction actions and a deadline whereby the Operator must demonstrate compliance with the conditions of the Permit and the requirements of the Act and Rules. Failure to address the corrective actions by the deadline may cause the Division to escalate the Problem to a **Possible Violation (PV)** and schedule the issue for formal hearing before the Mined Land Reclamation Board (Board).

(AR) RECORDS----- <u>Y</u>	(FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY----- <u>Y</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>Y</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>Y</u>	(BG) BACKFILL & GRADING----- <u>NA</u>	(EX) EXPLOSIVES----- <u>N</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- <u>N</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>Y</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>N</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>Y</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>Y</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <b><u>PB</u></b>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <b><u>PB</u></b>	(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>N</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>N</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

**INSPECTION TOPIC:** Revegetation

**PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION:** Problem: There are state-listed noxious weeds present on site. This is a problem for failure to employ weed control methods for state listed noxious weed species within the permitted area, and to reduce the spread of weeds to nearby areas as required by Section 3.1.10 (6) of the rule.

**CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:** Implement approved weed control plan and provide proof to the Division that this has been done. If a weed control plan is not already in place, the operator shall develop a weed control and management plan in accordance with Section 3.1.10 (6) of the Rule. This plan should be developed in consultation with the county extension agency, or weed control district office and should include specific control measures to be applied, a schedule for when control measures will be applied and a post-treatment monitoring plan. This weed control plan shall be submitted to the Division as a Technical Revision to the approved plan with the appropriate Technical Revision fee of \$216.00 by the corrective action date.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE:** 1/01/21

**INSPECTION TOPIC:** Signs & Markers

**PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION:** Problem: The mine identification sign was not posted at the entrance of the mine site. This is a problem for failure to post a mine identification sign as required by Section 3.1.12(1) of the rule. The Operator shall, at the entrance of the mine site post a sign, which shall be clearly visible from the access road, with a minimum size equaling one hundred and eighty-seven (187) square inches, such as eleven (11) inches in height and seventeen (17) inches in width, with appropriate font size, with the following: the name of the Operator, a statement that a reclamation permit for the operation has been issued by the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board; and the permit number.

**CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:** The operator shall, at the entrance of the mine site, post a sign which shall be clearly visible from the access road with the following: the name of the operator, a statement that a reclamation permit for the operation has been issued by the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board; and the permit number. The operator shall submit photo documentation that a proper sign has been posted by the corrective action date.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE:** 1/01/21

**OBSERVATIONS**

This inspection was conducted as part of the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) normal monitoring program. The Liberty Mine is a 110d underground Designated Mining Operation that includes a total of 9.9 permitted acres. The site is located five mile south of Gateway, Colorado. Amy Yeldell of the Division conducted the inspection. No representatives for Liberty Mining, LLC or BLM were present.

The site remains inactive. This permit has been issued however, activity has not yet commenced on site. Given that, the site has not begun mining they are in compliance with Rule 1.13.

No mine sign was observed on site as required by rule 3.1.12. This is cited as an inspection problem. The Operator shall post a mine sign by the corrective action date listed on page 2 of this inspection report. The gate to the access road remains closed and locked.

The access road was stable with minimal erosion. Scrub Oak and other native vegetation has begun to volunteer on the road. Vegetation density tends to increase as you move down the road towards the mine. Some recent foot traffic and single wheel tire tracks were observed along portions of the road, impacts appear to be minimal.

The portal is sealed with a locked gate and PUFF. The exterior grate was partially opened at the time of the inspection but the inner grate was locked. The portal remains locked and secured. The PUFF appears to remain in place and has not deteriorated anymore.

Two explosive magazines remain on site. Miscellaneous mining materials such as metal and wood are on site and stored neatly. No fuel or trash was observed.

The flat pad areas of the mine were inundated with knapweed. There appeared to be no treatment of noxious weeds. This is a problem for failure to employ weed control methods for state listed noxious weed species within the permitted area, and to reduce the spread of weeds to nearby areas as required by Section 3.1.10 (6) of the rule. The Operator shall implement the approved weed control plan and provide proof to the Division that this has been done. If a weed control plan is not already in place, the operator shall develop a weed control and management plan. This weed control plan shall be submitted to the Division as a Technical Revision to the approved plan with the appropriate Technical Revision fee of \$216.00 by the corrective action date listed on page 2 of this report.

The Division currently requires a financial warranty amount of \$93,862.42 for this site. The bond was last recalculated in 2018. 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 has updated the reclamation cost estimate and found it to be sufficient.

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**

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Enclosure

EC:  
Travis Marshall, Senior EPS, Grand Junction DRMS  
Eric Eckberg, BLM



**PHOTOGRAPHS**









