




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: Thorson Mine	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1981-020	MINERAL: Anhydrite, gypsum	COUNTY: Fremont
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	INSPECTOR(S): Timothy Cazier, P.E.	INSP. DATE: June 15, 2021	INSP. TIME: 15:55
OPERATOR: Indian Springs Ranch, LLP	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: B. J. Thorson	TYPE OF OPERATION: 110c - Construction Limited Impact	
REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: Partial Bond	BOND AMOUNT: \$2,500.00	
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None	
WEATHER: Cloudy	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: July 16, 2021	

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>Y</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>Y</u>	(BG) BACKFILL & GRADING----- <u>Y</u>	(EX) EXPLOSIVES----- <u>NA</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- <u>NA</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---- <u>Y</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>Y</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>NA</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>Y</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>Y</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>Y</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>Y</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>NA</u>	(OD) OFF-SITE DAMAGE----- <u>Y</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 regular monitoring program. The Operator was represented by B.J. Thorson who was present for the inspection. This is a 110c gypsum mine. The Thorson Mine is located approximately 2 miles west of Phantom Canyon Road (CR 67), about 4 miles north of US Hwy 50 between Penrose and Cañon City, CO. It was not active at the time of the inspection, nor were there signs of recent activity. Mr. Thorson stated they were discussing the site for use with a nearby large mining company. This was confirmed by representatives with the company by this inspector. The pandemic has put further discussions and investigations on hold.

Availability of Records: Annual fees are paid through May 2021. The previous inspection was on February 16, 2017. The approved post-mine land use is rangeland. There are no open infractions. Both the surface and minerals are privately owned. The site entered temporary cessation in 2013 and resumed activity in February 2017. Current activity is very limited due to the market. There is an error in the 2021 Annual Report as it indicates activity has not yet started. [The 2022 Annual Report must reflect the most recent activity.](#)

Backfilling and Grading: Sufficient backfill material appeared to be available as there is ample room to push material down to fill the few benches (see **Photo 1**).

Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste: Little to no overburden piles were observed.

Financial Warranty: The \$2,500 bond held by the DRMS is adequate for the observed mine disturbance.

Fish and Wildlife: No impact to wildlife was observed.

Hydrologic Balance: No standing water was observed in the pit and no exposed groundwater was observed.

Gen. Compliance with Mine Plan: The operation appeared to be in compliance with the approved mine plan. Benches are to be no higher than 20 feet. Observed benches are estimated between 8 and 10 feet high (see **Photos 1 and 2**). The maximum allowed disturbed area is 9.8 acres. Google Earth was used to measure the disturbed area, which was estimated to be slightly less than one acre, based on 2019 imagery.

Off-site Damage: The operation appeared to be confined to the permit boundary, based on Google Earth review and site observations.

Roads: The access road did not appear to be a source of sediment that could be tracked offsite (see **Photo 3**).

Right of Entry: The site is owned by the Operator, Indian Springs Ranch.

Reclamation Success: No active reclamation has been initiated.

Revegetation: Mr. Thorson indicated they have not seeded the site, however some vegetation was observed, likely due to the recent rains. No noxious weeds were observed.

Sediment Control: Some mild erosion was observed, but no BMPs were needed at the time of the inspection.

Support Facilities On-site: A screen (see **Photo 1**) and conveyor (see **Photo 3**) were observed on site.

Signs and Markers: The permit sign was properly posted (see **Photo 4**) and Mr. Thorson stated boundary markers were in place along the permit boundary, well away from the observed disturbance.

Permit Stipulations: There are no permit stipulations.

Storm Water MGT Plan: No oil or fuel spills, nor stormwater retention was observed.

Structures: The closest structure is a power line (see **Photo 3**), north of the adjacent ephemeral drainage, but it is over 500 feet away the affected area boundary.

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

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1. Screen and existing benches (looking south).

PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)



Photo 2. Additional benches west of Photo 1 benches (looking SW).



Photo 3. Conveyor along entrance road (looking NE – note powerline in background).

PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)



Photo 4. Permit sign Screen (looking south from NW corner on access road).

Inspection Contact Address

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ec: DRMS file