



Cazier - DNR, Tim <tim.cazier@state.co.us>

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## Black Range Signed Request

1 message

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**Bruce Smith** <bsmith@westernwaterandland.com>  
To: "Cazier - DNR, Tim" <tim.cazier@state.co.us>

Thu, Oct 28, 2021 at 11:37 AM

Hi Tim,

Attached is the reclamation release request letter for the Hansen Project signed by Mike Rutter of Black Range Minerals.

Please let me know if this will suffice, or if you need a different date or context.

Thanks,

Bruce

**Bruce D. Smith, P.G.**  
**Principal Hydrogeologist**

Western Water & Land, Inc.

743 Horizon Ct. Suite 330

Grand Junction, CO 81506

Office: 970-242-0170

Mobile: 970-270-6216



**Black Range Minerals P-2009-025 Completion of Reclamation.PDF**  
1048K



Western Water & Land, Inc.

October 13, 2021

Mr. Tim Cazier  
Environmental Protection Specialist III  
Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety  
1313 Sherman Street, Room 215  
Denver, CO 80203

**RE: Notice of Completion of Reclamation and Request for Release of Reclamation Responsibility,  
Black Range Prospecting Permit P-2009-025**

Dear Mr. Cazier:

Black Range Minerals Colorado, LLC (BRM) has completed site reclamation activities at the Hansen Uranium Project (may also be referred to as Taylor Ranch Project) located in northern Fremont County, Colorado. This letter is a formal application and request for release of reclamation responsibility for all lands disturbed under permit P-2009-025. The subject lands are located along Middle Tallahassee Creek in Sections 21, 22, and 27, Township 7 South, Range 73 West, 6<sup>th</sup> Principal Meridian (see Figure 1).

Under the permitted activities, land disturbance has historically been associated with exploration drilling that occurred in 2011 and 2013. A total of 16 boreholes were drilled during this time with an estimated 1.6 acres of total disturbance. Six of these boreholes were converted to vibrating wire piezometers, and another five borings were constructed as monitoring wells. All exploration borings have been abandoned in accordance with Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board Rule 5.4.2. Piezometers were abandoned with the approval of the Colorado Division of Water Resources (DWR). Reclamation activities completed to date include borehole abandonment, well pad regrading and contouring, seeding, mulching, and implementation of stormwater erosion best management practices. Any previously installed reclamation fencing has been removed. These activities have been acknowledged by DRMS in past inspection reports.

**Description of Reclamation Activities**

A map of the reclamation area is shown in Figure 1. Borehole reclamation was conducted in accordance with Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board Rule 5.4.2 and DWR Rule 16. In most cases, all boreholes were completely plugged with neat cement/bentonite mix (as per DWR recommendations) from total depth to surface. For boreholes where vibrating wire piezometers were installed an alternate grout of cement was used; this procedure was approved by DWR. Standard abandonment grout mix consisted of 1, 100 lb. bag of Portland cement, 5 lbs. of bentonite, and 7 gallons of water. The VWP grout consisted of 1, 100 lb. bag of Portland cement, 25 lbs. of bentonite, and 30 gallons of water. In boreholes where VWPs were installed, the bottom of each borehole was abandoned with standard grout mix, the VWP-instrumented portions of the boreholes were grouted with VWP grout mix, and the upper portion of the borehole was grouted with standard grout mix. Excess grout was transported and properly disposed of offsite.

Surface reclamation was conducted soon after drilling and often within one week. After completion of borehole drilling at each pad, the mud pit and access disturbance were contoured and regraded to best match existing

natural grade using a back hoe, bull dozer, grader, and/or excavator. Typically, a slight soil mound was left over the pit area to allow for settling compaction. Top soil that had been stock piled or bermed on site was then evenly spread over the disturbed surface. Seeding was usually conducted at a later date, prior to anticipated significant precipitation events or winter onset. Seeding was conducted with a seed drill. No mulch or fertilizer was applied. The approved seed mix used was as shown in the following table.

Seed Species	Seeding Rate (PLS/acre)
Western Wheatgrass	2.80
Streambank Wheatgrass	0.80
Blue Grama	0.10
Sicleoats Grama	0.50
Green Needlegrass	1.80
*Mountain Mahogany	0.10
*Included in forested areas	

Where cross-country methods (no road construction) were used to access drill sites, any soil and vegetation damage was reclaimed by ripping the ground and reseeding.

#### **DRMS Site Inspection**

DRMS conducted the most recent site inspection on March 5, 2021. Ms. Stephanie Carter of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) attended the inspection, along with Mr. Mike Rutter of Black Range. No violations were identified during the inspection. The inspection report presented a tabulated summary of all boreholes and monitoring wells and their reclamation status. This table has been modified and is presented in Table 1. Prior to this inspection, well permit and construction information were not available to DRMS for five of the monitoring wells (MW-27-290 through MW-27-294). This information was submitted to DRMS on September 17, 2021. Drill pad HNDD0008 was not visited during the inspection.

The March 5, 2021 inspection identified one location of concern on the drill road to borehole HNDD0009. This land is administered by the BLM. At this location, it was recommended by DRMS and BLM to install a water bar and bar ditch to divert and capture stormwater runoff to prevent future erosion. This work has been completed by Black Range.

In addition, DRMS identified a small amount of Canada thistle near HNDD0010, and the presence of straw wattle and rebar stakes on the perimeter of the HNDD0006 drill pad.

The March 5, 2021 inspection report states that the existing financial warranty for the project is \$154,936.58. The site inspection report suggested that with corrections of the relatively minor issues mentioned above, Black Range could consider a request for final reclamation liability.

For photographs of the reclaimed drill pads, Black Range would ask that DRMS please refer to the photographs that were included in the DRMS March 5, 2021 inspection report.

Black Range has scheduled time for the week of October 11<sup>th</sup> (this week) to apply weed treatment to the thistle and remove the wattle and rebar at the HNDD0006 site. Currently, Black Range has decided to maintain the existing monitoring wells (MW-27-290 through MW-27-294) for possible future use.



**Permit Information**

Permit No.: P-2009-025


Operation Name: Hansen Uranium Project

Prospector: Black Range Minerals Colorado, LLC

Contact: Mr. Mike Rutter, Vice President  
Black Range Minerals Colorado, LLC  
31161 Highway 90  
P.O. Box 825  
Nucla, Colorado 81424  
Phone: (435) 459-1354

**Signed Statement**

I, **Michael Rutter** as agent/consultant to Black Range Minerals Colorado, LLC do hereby state that all applicable portions of the Reclamation Plan requirements have been satisfied in accordance with the Mined Land Reclamation Board rules and all applicable requirements under the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Act.

  
Signature

10-27-2021  
Date

V.P. Operations  
Title

Black Range Minerals  
Company

Please address bond release documents to Mr. Mike Rutter and provide a copy to WWL. Should you have any questions, please contact me at (970) 242-0170.

Sincerely,

  
Bruce D. Smith  
WESTERN WATER & LAND, INC.

attachments

cc: Mr. Mike Rutter, Vice President, Black Range Minerals Colorado, LLC  
Mr. George Glasier, President, Black Range Minerals Colorado, LLC  
Ms. Stephanie Carter, USBLM, Royal Gorge Field Office  
Ms. Alicia Stone, Planning Coordinator, Fremont County