




**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> Bulldog Mine Operation	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1977-215	<b>MINERAL:</b> Lead and silver	<b>COUNTY:</b> Mineral
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Lucas West	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> May 4, 2022	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 10:15
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Rio Grande Silver, Inc.	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Randy McClure	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 112d-2 - Designated Mining Operation	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Normal I&E Program	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> None	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$163,228.13	
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> None	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None	
<b>WEATHER:</b> Clear	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> May 5, 2022	

**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>N</u>	(FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY----- <u>N</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>Y</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>Y</u>	(BG) BACKFILL & GRADING----- <u>N</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>N</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>N</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>N</u>	(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

### **OBSERVATIONS**

This inspection was conducted as part of the normal monitoring program established by the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety's Active Mines Program. The Bulldog Mine is a 112d-2 Operation that is currently in an Active Status. The site is located approximately ½ mile northwest of Creede, CO in Mineral County at an elevation of 9370 Feet. The site consists of 568 Permitted Acres for the underground extraction of Gold, Silver and other base metals. Public access to the site is controlled by a locked gate along the access road to the office and facilities area. Along with the inspector and Operator Representative listed on page one of this report, Jonathan Moore, Mike Wegleitner and Lance Boylan of Hecla Mining Company, the parent company of Rio Grande Silver were present during the inspection. accompanied the inspection and represented the Operator. The Division currently holds a \$163,228.13 Financial Warranty for the site. A reclamation cost estimate update was not performed as a result of this inspection. The site was not active during the inspection however various maintenance and safety activities were taking place in preparation for startup were taking place. Ten Photos accompany this report to illustrate the current site conditions.

The main focus of this inspection was to observe the facilities and equipment associated with a Technical Revision that is forthcoming. The Technical Revision will address the dewatering plan associated with the activation of the operation. The overall concept of the dewatering plan is to pump water from the portal to a 14,000 gallon above ground holding tank, then allowing it to flow to the holding pond in the facilities area. The water will then be pumped to trucks and transported to the holding pond at Tailings Pond 2 (TP-2) for evaporation.

Water will be transferred to the holding tank using pumps located underground. The water will be conveyed through approximately 970 Linear Feet of above ground HDPE piping leading from the 9400 portal, shown in Photo One to the above ground 14,000 gallon red holding tank at the 9360 area. The line crosses the access road to the 9400 level portal underground, the crossing point can be seen in Photo Two. The tank, inlet and outlet piping were observed to be in good condition and can be seen in Photos Three and Four. The tank will be allowed to fill, and is allowed to gravity flow from a pipe located at the top of the tank into the approximately 740 Linear Feet of HDPE pipe leading to the holding pond. The pipes leading from the portal to the 14,000 gallon tank, and from the tank to the pond are in excellent condition and can be seen in Photos Five through Seven. The inlet to the HDPE lined holding pond was observed to be free from obstructions and in good condition. The holding pond has approximately 150,000 gallons of capacity and contained a small amount of water from recent precipitation events. An 8 foot exclusion fence surrounds the pond with an access gate when needed. The pond, and its inlet can be seen in Photo Eight and Nine. From the holding pond, the water will be transferred to water hauling trucks via pump and suction line, and transferred to the HDPE lined holding pond located at TP-2. Once arriving at the unloading location the trucks will hook to the above ground transfer line, unloading into the pond. The pond was observed, having minimal water from snowmelt and recent precipitation events. The liner is in good condition and no evidence of compromise was noted. The unloading area, line and pond can be seen in Photo Ten. All elements of the upcoming dewatering operation were observed to be in excellent condition. Pending the submittal of the Technical Revision the operation appears to be able to function as designed.

No problems or possible violations were observed during this inspection. All responses to this report should be directed to Lucas West at the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety at Room 215, 1001 E. 62<sup>nd</sup> Ave, Denver CO 80206. Direct contact can be made at the Division's Grand Junction Field Office, by phone at 303-866-3567 Ext. 8187 or by email at [lucas.west@state.co.us](mailto:lucas.west@state.co.us).



## **PHOTOGRAPHS**

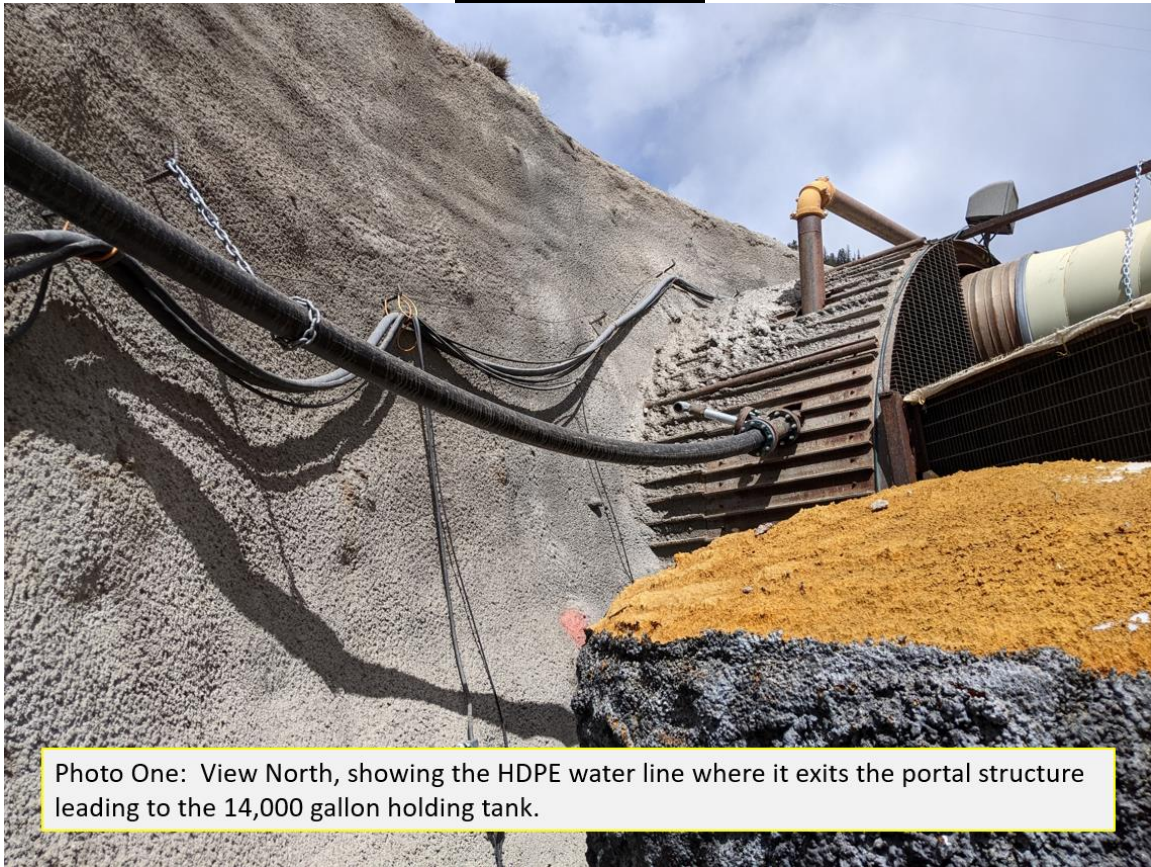


Photo One: View North, showing the HDPE water line where it exits the portal structure leading to the 14,000 gallon holding tank.



Photo Two: View south, showing the point where the HDPE pipe crosses the access road to the 9400 level portal. The pipe is above ground except where it crosses the road.









Photo Five: View northwest, showing a section of the HDPE water line between the portal and the holding tank.



Photo Six: View south, showing the pipe leading from the holding tank to the holding pond. The pipe is above ground and in excellent condition.





Photo Seven: View east, showing the last section of pipe that will deliver the water to holding pond. All supports, joints and pipe sections were observed and appear to be able to function as designed.



Photo Eight: View west, showing the HDPE lined holding pond, inlet pipe and outlet pipe used to transfer water from the pond to the trucks. The pond contains a small amount of water collected from snowmelt and recent precipitation events.





**Inspection Contact Address**

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