




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: 2006/07 Geo-Hydro Drill & Core Prgm-Public	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: P-2006-036	MINERAL: Oil shale	COUNTY: Rio Blanco
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	INSPECTOR(S): Amy Yeldell	INSP. DATE: May 31, 2022	INSP. TIME: 09:00
OPERATOR: Shell Frontier Oil & Gas Inc.	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Samantha Baker	TYPE OF OPERATION: MP - Mineral Prospecting	
REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: None	BOND AMOUNT: \$293,326.33	
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: U.S.BLM	
WEATHER: Clear	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: June 21, 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>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>NA</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>NA</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>NA</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>NA</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 Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety normal monitoring program. The 2006-07 Geo-Hydro Drill & Core Program-Public is a Hard Rock NOI located in Rio Blanco County. Amy Yeldell of the Division conducted the inspection. Samantha Baker represented the Operator. James Roberts of the White River Field Office was also present.

The permitted NOI includes a total of 14.12 acres and has a required bond of \$50,621. In 2021, under SR-1, the bond was reduced based on progress towards the completion of final reclamation. The Division still holds \$293,326.33 in financial warranty for this site since a replacement bond has not been submitted following the approval of SR-1 (5-11-2021). In 2014 with the approval of MD-1 all uninstalled pads and boreholes were removed. The following pads remain permitted; 82-1-299, 84-1-299, Triad Access Road, 91-22-199, 92-22-199, 93-22-199, 94-22-199, and 95-22-199.

All hydrology wells have been abandoned and pads have been reclaimed. Reclamation efforts were completed in 2010 and 2014. The past winter was extremely dry with very little snow/ moisture. This spring/ early summer has been very cold with limited precipitation. Generally plants are behind schedule in germination and inspection timing is more comparable to typical March/April site conditions. Wild horse populations have significantly increased and vegetation throughout the Piceance Basin is showing signs of overgrazing. All mining related debris has been removed from the site(s). Specific observations of each pad are listed below,

Pad 82-1-299: Previously the pad was heavily treated for weeds, specifically Cheatgrass. The treatment appears to be effective as native grass populations are reestablishing and dense in areas with only minor occurrences of Cheatgrass. Mature shrubs occur in patches. Unfortunately some areas still remain void of vegetation. Overall the pad itself has a lot of woody cover which may be limiting vegetation establishment. Grazing pressures continue to be a limiting factor. It is unclear if the bald areas are due to grazing pressures or weed treatments or a combination of both. Some undesirable plants referred to as western tagalong are present on site. They should be managed so that successful areas of reclamation are not damaged.

Pad 84-1-299: Desirable vegetation on this pad has drastically decreased. Western tagalong, an undesirable species has infested large portions. Of the remaining desirable grasses they are very low and sparse. Shrubs remain on site and are very slowly growing and increasing. Grazing and drought conditions are leaving grasses stunted. Cheatgrass populations are decreasing but spot weed treatment areas remain nearly bare of desirable vegetation.

Triad Access Road and pads: The adjacent lands have recently been hydro-axed (shrub mowing) by the BLM to break up dense patches of sagebrush and allow for establishment of more grasses. These lands are to be managed for weeds by the BLM. None of the permitted lands have been affected by this activity however previously established wind breaks may result in dryer conditions on the pads. Vegetation on the access road is sparse, approx. 30% cover of primarily grasses. Noxious weeds appear to be effectively managed with only limited infestation areas. Shrubs and forbs have yet to establish. Roadways remain utilized as corridors for wildlife movement and grazing. Hopefully recent mowing will help better disperse impacts allowing the road and pads more opportunity for growth.

Responses to this inspection report should be directed to Amy Yeldell at the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, Room 215, 1001 E 62nd Ave, Denver, CO 80216. Direct contact can be made by phone at 303-866-3567 Ext 8183 or via email at amy.yeldell@state.co.us

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PHOTOGRAPHS





