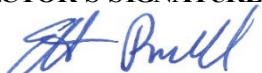




**MINERALS PROGRAM INSPECTION REPORT**  
**PHONE: (303) 866-3567**

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> Florence Pit	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-2001-070	<b>MINERAL:</b> Gemstones	<b>COUNTY:</b> Teller
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Elliott Russell	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> May 26, 2022	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 12:00
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Wallace F. Burtis	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> None	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 110(2) - Hard Rock Limited Impact	

<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Normal I&E Program	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> Complete Bond	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$1,000.00
<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> July 14, 2022

**The following inspection topics were identified as having Problems or Possible Violations. OPERATORS SHOULD READ THE FOLLOWING PAGES CAREFULLY IN ORDER TO ASSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE PERMIT AND APPLICABLE RULES AND REGULATIONS. If a Possible Violation is indicated, you will be notified under separate cover as to when the Mined Land Reclamation Board will consider possible enforcement action.**

**GENERAL INSPECTION TOPICS**

The following list identifies the environmental and permit parameters inspected

(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>N</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING----- <u>N</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>N</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>Y</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>Y</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>Y</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION----- <u>N</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>PB</u> <u>x2</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

## **PROBLEMS/POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS**

### **INSPECTION TOPIC:** Signs & Markers

**COMPLIANCE PROBLEM #1:** The mine identification sign was illegible and needs to be refreshed. This is a problem for failure to post a mine identification sign as required by Rule 3.1.12(1).

**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 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;
- the name of the Operation;
- 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:** August 15, 2022

### **INSPECTION TOPIC:** Signs & Markers

**COMPLIANCE PROBLEM #2:** The affected area boundary markers are missing or incorrectly placed. This is a problem for failure to maintain boundary markers around the affected area as required by Rule 3.1.12(2).

**CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:** The operator shall replace the boundary markers in the correct location(s). The operator shall provide proof to the Division that this has been done by the corrective action date.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE:** August 15, 2022

## **OBSERVATIONS**

This inspection was conducted as part of the Division's routine monitoring program for permitted operations. Elliott Russell, with the Division, conducted the inspection. The Division attempted to contact Wallace Burtis, the Operator, however was recommended to contact the Operator's son, Randal Burtis. Randal was unable to attend the inspection but requested the inspection report be sent to him as he has been recently handling the mining permit. Amy Eschberger, also with the Division, attended the inspection.

The Florence Pit is a 110(2) Hardrock Permit and is approved to affect 0.84 acres of land for the extraction of turquoise. Affected lands will be reclaimed to support a Rangeland post-mining land use. The site is located at the end of Prospect Street, north of Galena Avenue, in Cripple Creek, Colorado. The site is located immediately south of Permit No. M-1996-081. The Florence Pit consists of a single excavation at the end of a short access road. No equipment was located onsite at the time of the inspection. Due to ground conditions it was difficult to determine if the site had recently been active.

Availability Of Records: The anniversary date of the permit is August 23<sup>rd</sup> of each year. The 2020-2021 Annual Report, Map, and Fee was submitted and accepted on August 19, 2021. There are no open infractions.

Financial Warranty: The financial warranty was reviewed as a part of the inspection to ensure the amount is adequate to cover the costs associated with fulfilling the reclamation requirements set for in the approved mining and reclamation plans. The \$1,000 bond held by the Division was originally set in 2001 when the Operator applied for the permit. The Division has determined the required amount of financial warranty to

complete reclamation at the site is now \$3,000, an increase of \$2,000 from the current bond held. A copy of the Division's reclamation cost estimate has been enclosed for the Operator's reference. Please review this estimate and contact the Division within 30 days to discuss the estimate or if any calculation errors are discovered. The Division will issue a Notice of Surety Increase within 30 days, requiring the Operator to then post the additional financial warranty within 60 days of the Notice of Surety Increase. Through discussions with Randal Burtis, the Operator may decide to reclaim the site this year and inquired about the need for the surety increase. To avoid the surety increase at this time, the Operator should formally commit to initiate reclamation and provide a reclamation schedule prior to the 30-day timeframe discussed above.

Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan: The operation appeared to be in compliance with the approved mine plan.

Hydrologic Balance: No exposed groundwater was observed during the inspection. Some water was observed in the bottom of the pit, however this was accumulating due to the melting snow from a recent spring storm.

Reclamation Success: No reclamation has been completed to date. As the Operator may decide to initiate final reclamation, the Division has summarized the approved reclamation plan below for the Operator's reference:

1. Grade/backfill slopes to match pre-mining slopes, roughly 3H:1V
2. Roughen the site to prepare for seeding (disc, harrow, rake etc.)
3. Revegetate the site by broadcast seeding the following mixture:
  - Western Wheatgrass 12.0 PLS/Acre
  - Streambank Wheatgrass 5.7 PLS/Acre
  - Russian Wildrye 4.0 PLS/Acre
  - Arizona Fescue 1.6 PLS/Acre
  - Smooth Brome 4.0 PLS/Acre

Revegetation: No noxious weeds were observed, however the Operator should monitor the site to ensure no weed infestations occur.

Sediment Control: No erosion problems were observed and no BMPs are needed at this time.

Signs and Markers: The permit sign was posted along the access road. The sign has deteriorated and will need to be refreshed; this has been cited as Compliance Problem #1, requiring the Operator to post a new permit identification sign. The Division was unable to locate the boundary markers which are required to delineate the permit boundary; this has been cited as Compliance Problem #2, requiring the Operator to delineate to permit boundary with markers.

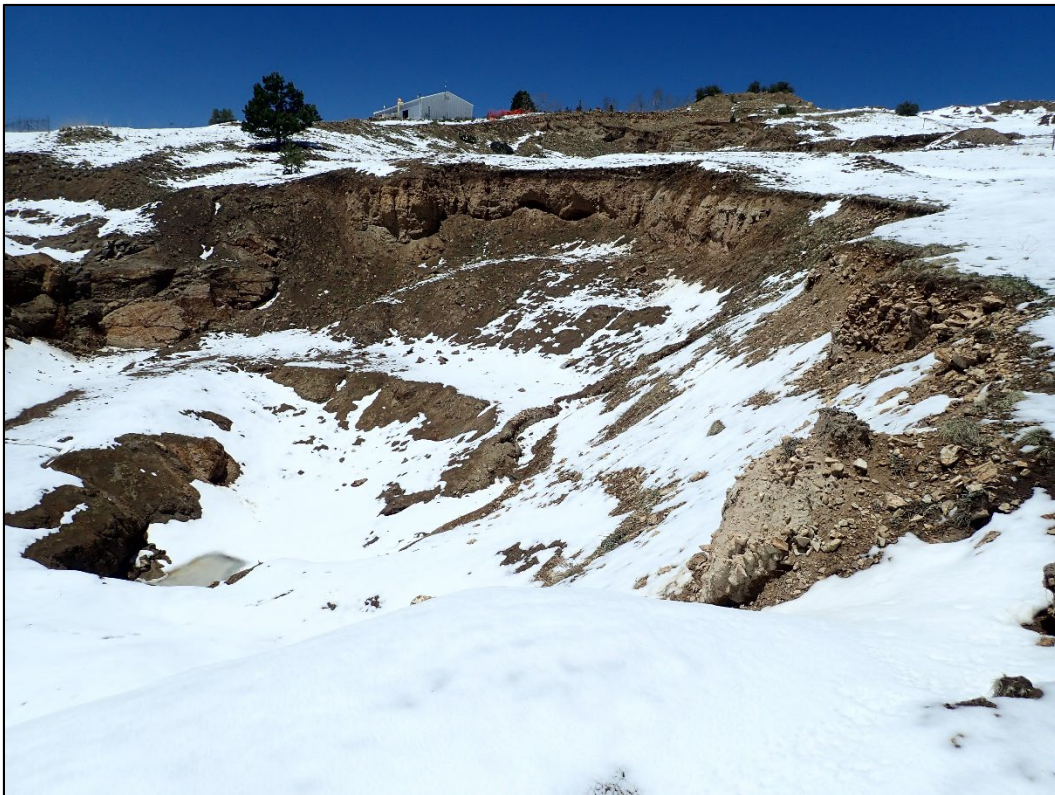
This concludes the Division's Inspection Report; a subset of photographs taken during the time of the inspection are included below. If you need additional information or have any questions, please contact me at Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203, by telephone at **303-866-3567 x8132**, or by email at [elliott.russell@state.co.us](mailto:elliott.russell@state.co.us).



## PHOTOGRAPHS



**Photo 1.** Mine identification sign; looking northwest.



**Photo 2.** Pit overview; looking northwest.





**Photo 3.** Western portion of pit; looking north.



**Photo 4:** Site overview; looking northwest.





**Photo 5.** Site overview; looking north.

**Inspection Contact Address**

Wallace F. Burtis  
66 Dartmouth Ave.  
Pueblo, CO 81005

Enclosure: 2022 Reclamation Cost Estimate M2001070

CC: Jason Musick, DRMS  
Randal Burtis [rwburtis@protonmail.com](mailto:rwburtis@protonmail.com)