




**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> Nahcolite Project	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1983-194	<b>MINERAL:</b> Carbonates	<b>COUNTY:</b> Rio Blanco
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>WEATHER:</b> Clear	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> September 20, 2022	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 10:00
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Natural Soda LLC	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Jeff Paris	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 112d-3 - Designated Mining Operation	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> High Priority	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> Complete Bond	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$4,433,331.00	
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> None	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None	
<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Travis Marshall	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> October 25, 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>Y</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>Y</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>Y</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>NA</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>Y</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 by the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) as part of the routine inspection program. The Natural Soda LLC Nahcolite Project is a 112-D3 mine site that consists of 12,248 acres. Jeff Paris of Daub and Associates was present during the inspection.

The purpose of the inspection was to observe the Technical Revision 49 revised pad location for 17H-1V SSMW and the current conditions of the reclaimed pads and associated roads that have been reclaimed.

The pad for the 17H-1V SSMW is located southeast of the production facility off of the main access road to the site. Originally under Technical Revision 48 the drill location was going to be located on the existing 16-17H-1V pad but was required to be relocated southwest on a new pad location that overlies the 17H-IR-E well path. The purpose of the Technical Revision 49 relocation was to satisfy the requirements of the EPA UIC permit held by Natural Soda.

The proposed well location was covered with sage and various grasses. The access to the proposed well location is along an existing road used for powerline access. The proposed well pad will affect approximately 0.6 acres. A reclamation cost update was required under the technical revision process and was completed and sent to the operator. The previously held reclamation bond of \$3,913,706.00 was increased to \$4,433,331.00. The majority of the increase in bond amount was due to DRMS cost estimating program updates which was greatly impacted due to increases in costs related to inflation. The revised required bond amount has been submitted by the operator and accepted by the Division since the inspection.

Observations of reclamation was conducted on the following access roads and pads for the MMC-IRI-2, R, P, Q, E, D, 94-1M, H, C, and N. Successful vegetation was observed on all locations. Weeds were observed on H, C, and N pads and their associated accesses. For the locations with successful revegetation and weed control a release request should be submitted under a separate revision request. The locations that were observed with infestations of Downy Brome should be treated and inspected again once the infestation is controlled.

No off-site damage was observed during the inspection.

No problems or possible violations were observed during the inspection.

Photos of the conditions observed during the inspection are located at the end of this inspection report.

If you need more information regarding this inspection report please contact Travis Marshall in the DRMS Grand Junction Field Office at (970) 241-2042.



**PHOTOGRAPHS**



















**Inspection Contact Address**

Jeff Paris  
Natural Soda LLC  
3200 CR 31  
Rifle, CO 81650

Enclosure

CC: