




**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> D Family Jewels	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-2019-055	<b>MINERAL:</b> Gemstones	<b>COUNTY:</b> Teller
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Surety Release Inspection	<b>WEATHER:</b> Clear	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> September 14, 2022	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 12:15
<b>OPERATOR:</b> James and Yvette Downing	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> None	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 110(1) - Hard Rock Limited Impact	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Surety Release Requested	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> None	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$2,300.00	
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> None	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None	
<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Elliott Russell	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> November 8, 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>N</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>N</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>Y</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>Y</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN----- <u>N</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP----- <u>Y</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**

None observed during the inspection.

## **OBSERVATIONS**

This inspection was conducted following the submittal of a Request for Full/Final Release of Entire Permit Area (SL1) on July 18, 2022, by James and Yvette Downing (Operator).

The D Family Jewels operation is a Hard Rock 110(1) Permit and is permitted at 1.15 acres. Affected lands will be reclaimed to support a Forestry post-mining land use. The site is located approximately 11.5 miles northwest of Divide, Colorado in Teller County. The Operator was contacted prior to the inspection but was not able to accompany the Division. The site is located on United States Forest Service (USFS) lands, however the USFS was also not able to accompany the Division on a joint inspection.

Availability Of Records: The Anniversary Date for the permit is May 19<sup>th</sup> of each year. The 2020-2021 Annual Report, Map, and Fee was received on May 17, 2022. The previous inspection was conducted on August 23, 2021; there are no open infractions. After finding SL1 complete, the Division notified the landowner (USFS), the Teller County Commissioners, the Teller County Planning Department, and the Teller-Park Conservation District of the Operator's request to be released from reclamation responsibility, as required by Rule 4.17.2. To date, the Division has not received any comments nor objections to the full release request.

Hydrologic Balance: Impacts to the prevailing hydrologic balance appeared to have been minimized. No standing water nor exposed groundwater was observed during the inspection.

Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan: The operation appeared to have followed the approved mine plan.

Backfilling and Grading: All slopes appeared to be appropriately backfilled and/or graded.

Sediment Control: The slopes within the permit boundary appeared stable and showed no signs of erosion. The Operator placed downed timber across the reclaimed disturbance for sediment control. The Division identified the area between the camp and the dig sites had an excessive amount of these installed and requested the Operator remove about three-fourths the amount of material to ensure revegetation is not hindered long term. On September 18, 2022, the Operator submitted photographs showing the amount of sediment control timbers had been thinned out appropriately.

Revegetation: The affected lands were vegetated with a diverse community of grasses, forbs, and shrubs. Vegetative cover appeared to match or exceed adjacent off-site areas. Other than a small amount of Canada thistle, there were no noxious weed infestations were observed. The Division requested the Operator treat the Canada thistle. On September 18, 2022, the Operator submitted photographs showing the Canada thistle had been removed from the site.

Reclamation Success: Reclamation efforts appeared to have been successful. Nothing observed during the inspection, following the Operator's submittal of corrective actions, would prevent the Division from approving the release request. Following the inspection, on November 4, 2022, the Division and the USFS conducted joint inspections of nearby operations and through discussions regarding M-2019-050, they verbally concurred with the pending decision to approve the release request. Therefore, the Division will now approve the release request at this time. The Division is required to hold the final release paperwork and performance warranties for 30 days to allow for any appeals of the Division's decision. These documents will be sent to the Operator after

the 30-day appeal period ends if no appeals are received.

This concludes the Division's Inspection Report. If you need additional information or have any questions, please contact me at **303-866-3567 x8132**, or by email at [elliott.russell@state.co.us](mailto:elliott.russell@state.co.us).

**Inspection Contact Address**

James and Yvette Downing  
1067 E. US Highway 24 #263  
Woodland Park, CO 80863

CC: Jason Musick with DRMS  
Sara Stevenson-Benn with DRMS  
Amy Titterington with USFS

**PHOTOGRAPHS**



**Photo 1.** Reclaimed dig area; looking east.





**Photo 2.** Reclaimed dig area; looking east.



**Photo 3.** Area between the Operator's camp and the dig sites which has an excessive amount of downed timber laid across the access route; looking northeast.