



File Code: 2810
Date: February 28, 2023

John Strong

Strong Mining Company
1504 E. 12th Street
Rifle, CO 81650-3703

Certified Letter: 7021 1970 0000 9767 2523

Dear Estate of John Strong

This letter is regarding the Apex Lode (CMC290783), Hill Top Lode (CMC290784), La Vada Lode (CMC290785), Lois Lode (CMC290786), Scranton Lode (CMC290787), and Senate Lode (CMC290788) mining claims located in Sections 7, 8, 17, and 18, T. 5 S., R. 88 W situated on National Forest Systems lands in Garfield County managed by the Rifle Ranger District.

On October 20, 2022, Jason Gross and Olivia Garcia conducted a final inspection for all work items approved in the final reclamation plan for the Apex Mine Site dated June 15, 2022. This letter is to inform you that you have met all requirements in accordance with 36 CFR 228.8(g) to reclaim all surface disturbance from former mining operations. I have enclosed the final Apex Mine 2022 Inspection Report for your files.

Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated. If you have any further questions, please contact Jason Gross at jason.gross@usda.gov or Olivia Garcia at olivia.garcia@usda.gov for assistance.

Sincerely,

X 

Signed by: Department of Agriculture

MICHAEL SMITH

DEP DIST RANGER

Enclosure: Apex Mine Final Inspection Report dated October 20, 2022

cc: Clayton Wein, State of Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety,
1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203 - clayton.wein@state.co.us



MINING INSPECTION FORM

Name of Operator:	<u>Strong Mining Company</u>	Claim Name	<u>Apex Lode</u>
Address:	<u>1505 E 12th St</u> <u>Rifle, CO 81650</u> <u></u> <u></u> <u></u>	Legals:	<u>CMC # 123145</u> Meridian: <u>Section7, T. 5 S., R. 88W</u> Township: <u></u> Range: <u></u> Section: <u></u>
Photos:	<u>attached</u>	Longitude:	<u></u>
Drainage:	<u>No Name</u>	Latitude:	<u></u>
National Forest:	<u>White River</u>	District:	<u>Rifle</u>

Inspector: Jason Gross & Olivia Garcia

Inspection Date: 10/20/2022

Description of operations or activity:

Occupancy: (Structures, equipment, other improvements).

Structures: cabin/toolshed (removed), outhouse (removed)

Equipment: none

Other Improvements: upper portal, lower portal (both reclaimed)

Surface Disturbance: (Trenches, pits, adits, dredging, removal of vegetation, road or trail construction, etc.)

2165 foot access road (reclaimed), 546 foot trail to adits (reclaimed)

Access: (Indicate if route is maintained and open to the public, a closed non-system road, or a user built and maintained road or trail. If a gate is used, does the operator maintain it? In addition, indicate if there are any fords or stream crossings).

Access via Trail Ridge Road to intersection ¼ mile NW of Windy Point. Coordinates are approximately 39°37'23.71"N, 107°18'30.98"W. Gate and lock have been removed with road reclaim.

Is Plan of Operations on file? no - Reclamation Plan approved 6/15/2020 **Is Notice of Intent on file?**
yes 3/27/2018 **Bond?** yes \$34,308

Was the Operator present during the inspection? no

Date of Inspection: 10/20/2022

Is the operation in compliance with the regulations and/or the approved Plan of Operations? yes

If not, describe the non-compliance conditions/activities on back. NOI authorization

Inspector: Jason Gross,
Physical Scientist
Name/Title

JASON GROSS Digitally signed by JASON GROSS
Date: 2023.02.10 13:45:30 -07'00'

Signature

Date _____

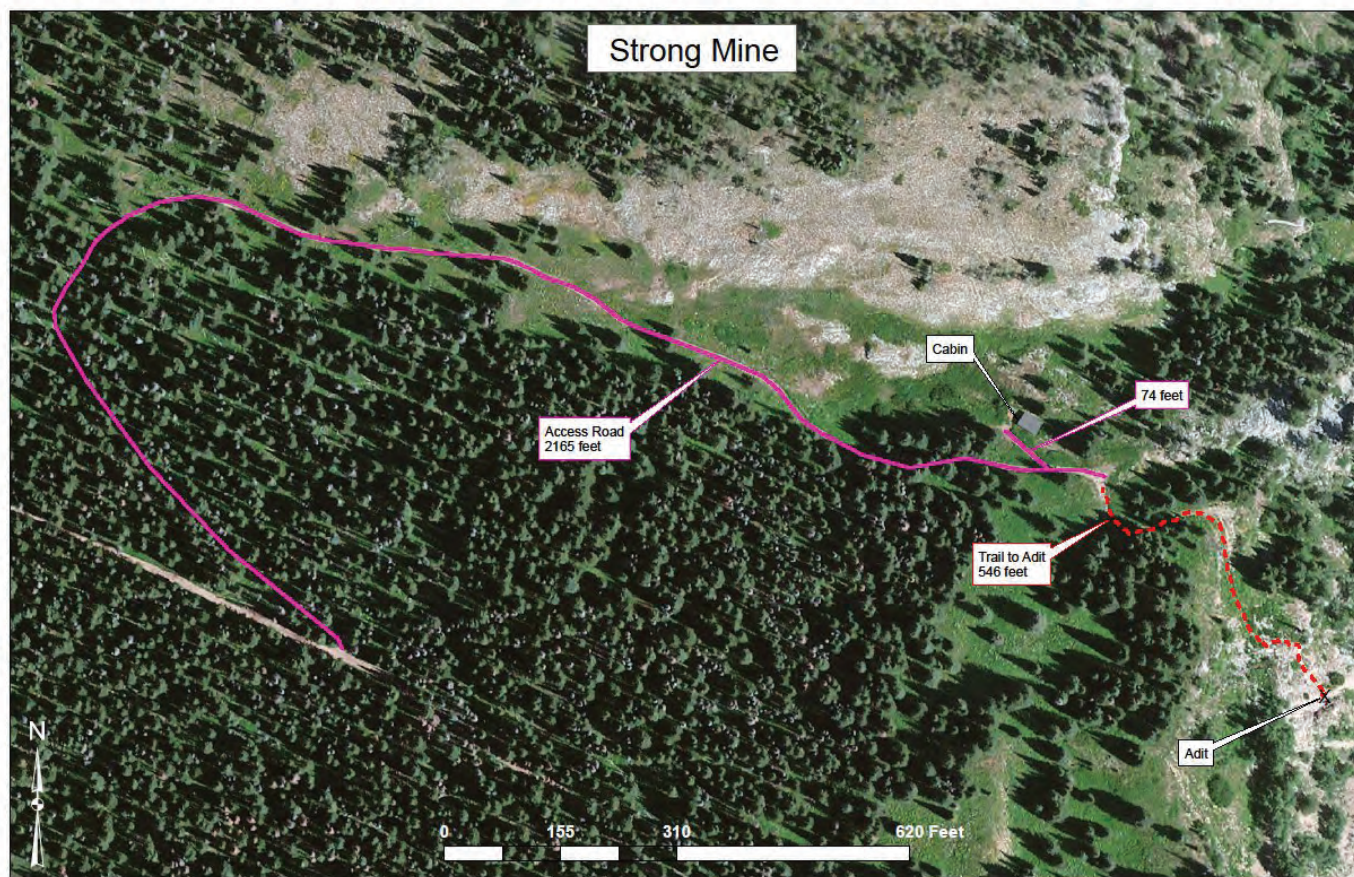
CMA: Paul Semmer, CMA

Name/Title

PAUL SEMMER (Affiliate) Digitally signed by PAUL SEMMER (Affiliate)
Date: 2023.02.24 13:00:16 -07'00'

Signature

Date _____

Site Sketch Map**Figure 1. Overview pre-remediation****Additional Comments:**

Attending the inspection on October 20, 2022 were Jason Gross and Olivia Garcia from the US Forest Service. The Forest Service approved a Reclamation Plan on June 15, 2020, and the operator has met the conditions of final reclamation. The disturbed areas have been seeded, however, it is too early in the process for successful revegetation to occur. The gate to the mine has been removed. The road was closed via surface roughening and placement of logs, then seeded. There is no erosion from disturbance. No weeds were observed. Weeds and revegetation will be monitored for one growing season. The State of Colorado retains the bond and will be notified prior to releasing the bond if revegetation is unsuccessful or weed control is required. Bonding is in effect for \$34,308.00.

Underground activities are not occurring onsite and no equipment or fuel were present. The cabin/toolshed has been removed. Logs were lopped and scattered as per the Reclamation Plan, and nonnative and/or non-biodegradable materials have been removed from the site. The outhouse has also been removed and the site reclaimed.

The upper and lower adits have been sealed with PUF and rock placed over the external exposure. All ore cart tracks, wood for the boardwalk, and any other materials have been removed. Corner stakes (t-posts) are the only non-biodegradable anthropogenic materials remaining in the area.



Figure 2. Road reclamation showing rolling dip at N portion of access road.



Figure 3. Road reclamation N portion of access road.



Figure 4. Road reclamation N portion.



Figure 5. Road reclamation NE portion of access road.



Figure 6. Road reclamation NE portion of access road.



Figure 7. Road reclamation on E portion of access road.



Figure 8. Road reclamation E portion of access road.



Figure 9. Road reclamation immediately past gate location.



Figure 10. Road reclamation showing seeding near intersection with NFSR 602.



Figure 11. Road reclamation near intersection of NFSR 602 at former gate location



Figure 12. Road reclamation near intersection of NFSR 602 at former gate location



Figure 13. Road reclamation N portion of access road.



Figure 14. Road reclamation on NW portion of access road.



Figure 15. Road reclamation on N portion of access road.



Figure 16. Road reclamation N portion of access road



Figure 17. Road reclamation on NE portion of access road.



Figure 18. Road reclamation on E portion of access road.



Figure 19. Stake



Figure 20. Road reclamation on E portion of access road.



Figure 21. Road reclamation on E portion of access road.



Figure 22. Road reclamation on E portion near former cabin site.



Figure 23. Stake



Figure 24. Stake



Figure 25. Lower portal reclamation



Figure 26. Lower portal reclamation



Figure 27. Lower portal reclamation



Figure 28. Upper portal reclamation



Figure 29. Upper portal reclamation



Figure 30. Road reclamation between former cabin site and adits.



Figure 31. Former cabin site reclamation



Figure 32. Former outhouse site reclamation

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Rifle CO 81650	
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