



COLORADO
**Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety**
Department of Natural Resources

May 18, 2023

Chris Van Valkenburg
Van Valkenburg Cattle Company, LLC
12353 Hwy 14
Walden, CO 80480

RE: 2023 Annual Report Received, Van Valkenburg Pit, Permit No. M- 2005-003

Dear Chris Van Valkenburg,

The Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety (Division) received an Annual Report, Map, and Fee for the Van Valkenburg Pit, Permit No. M-2005-003, on May 12, 2023. This report stated that the mine does not operate more than 180 days per year and that the mine has not been granted approval of intermittent operation or temporary cessation status. The Division also received a follow up email on May 12, 2023 from site representative Carla Van Valkenburg stating that no gravel had been taken from the pit in the last year.

This letter is to remind the operator that the Division's Statutes and Regulations include two rules pertaining to the frequency of mining activities for minerals sites. The first is that of 'intermittent operation'. As defined in C.R.S. 34-32.5-103(11)(b), intermittent operation refers to any operation which operates for less than 180 days per year. As per the Division's files, the Van Valkenburg Pit *has* been granted intermittent operation status as of May 7, 2013 and is thus approved to operate less than 180 days per year.

The second is that of 'temporary cessation' as defined by C.R.S. 34-32.5-103(11)(b) and Rule 1.13. The status of temporary cessation applies to operations that are in a period of non production which extends beyond 180 days per year. An operation can apply for two five-year terms of temporary cessation throughout the life of the mine. If an operator wishes to begin one of the five-year terms of temporary cessation, a formal request, accompanied by the appropriate fee, must be submitted to the Division. The request will then be considered for approval by the Mined Land Reclamation Board at the next available meeting. Presently, the Van Valkenburg Pit has *not* been granted a status of temporary cessation.

Please be reminded that 'activity' includes but is not limited to the sale or processing of material and reclamation operations after the extraction of construction materials has been completed. If the site is truly inactive, please follow up with the Division and apply for the appropriate status of temporary cessation. If the site is active by definition of intermittent operation, no follow up action with the Division is necessary, but please ensure that next year's annual report is filled out accurately when indicating the date of last activity and intermittent operation status.



If you have any questions, please contact me by email at hunter.ridley@state.co.us or by phone at (720)868-7757.

Sincerely,
Hunter C. Ridley

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hunter Ridley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Environmental Protection Specialist

CC: Michael Cunningham, DRMS