




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.

MINE NAME: Rock School Lease Experimental Nahcolite Mine	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1999-051	MINERAL: Carbonates	COUNTY: Rio Blanco
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	WEATHER: Cloudy	INSP. DATE: June 5, 2023	INSP. TIME: 13:30
OPERATOR: Natural Soda LLC	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Jerry Daub	TYPE OF OPERATION: 112 - Hard Rock Regular Operation	
REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: Complete Bond	BOND AMOUNT: \$122,494.25	
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None	
INSPECTOR(S): Amy Yeldell Todd Jesse	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: June 14, 2023	

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>N</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>NA</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>NA</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>N</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>Y</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>NA</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>NA</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION-- <u>N</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>N</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>Y</u>	(OD) OFF-SITE DAMAGE----- <u>NA</u>	

Y = Inspected / N = Not inspected / NA = Not applicable to this operation / PB = Problem cited / PV = Possible violation cited

OBSERVATIONS

This inspection was conducted as part of the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety's (Division) normal monitoring program. The Rock School Lease Experimental Nahcolite Mine is a 112 Hard Rock Mine. The permit consists of 1320.10 acres. The site is located in Rio Blanco County approximately 35 miles southwest of Meeker, Colorado in the Piceance Basin. Amy Yeldell and Todd Jesse of the Division conducted the inspection. Jerry Daub represented Natural Soda LLC, the Operator.

Acid And Toxic Materials:

No fuel or other hazardous or toxic materials were observed on site.

Backfilling and Grading:

The pads remain flat with highwall slopes approximately 2H: 1V to level the pads on the sides of a hill (Photo One). Material can be cut/fill regarded to obtain final slope configuration of a 3H: 1V for final reclamation.

Explosives:

Explosives are not used in conjunction with this mining operation.

Financial Warranty:

The Division currently requires a financial warranty amount of \$122,494.25 for this site. The bond was last recalculated with SI-2 in 2014. In an effort to ensure the Financial Warranty adequately reflects the actual current cost of fulfilling the requirements of the approved reclamation plan the Division will be updating the reclamation cost estimate. If the current bond is found to be insufficient the Division will send a Notice of Surety Increase under a separate cover.

Hydrologic Balance:

The hydrology monitoring program consists of three separate pads for a total of 6 wells. All wells were covered with a yellow spill kit drum. Mr. Daub indicated earlier this year all piping and pumps were pulled (Photo Two). Piping remains on site. Final plugging and abandonment of the wells is scheduled to begin June 19, 2023.

Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan:

The site has a maximum disturbance of 48.10 acres, of which approximately 4.22 acres have been affected to date. The total access road length to the farthest pad is 0.84 mi (4,425 LF) and 15 ft. wide, for 1.52 acres. The RS-96-20-1 pad is approximately 0.8 ac. The MWD-1 pad is approximately 0.6 ac. The pad with wells MWB-2, MWD-2, MWA-2 and MWU-2 is approximately 1.3ac

Processing Waste:

No processing of waste or other materials occurs at this site currently.

Roads:

Site access was restricted via a locked gate off of Yellow Creek Rd (CR91). No other wells/pads are accessed through this road.

Reclamation Success:

This site has a post-mining land use of wildlife habitat. No reclamation has occurred to date

Revegetation:

No revegetation has taken place to take. Given the lack of recent development on the pads vegetation has begun

to volunteer (Photo Three). Mr. Daub indicated that if plugging and abandonment of wells is complete early enough in the summer that grading and revegetation may take place fall of 2023.

Subsidence:

No evidence of subsidence was observed.

Support Facilities On-site:

No buildings, facilities or similar structures were observed within the affected lands

Special Categories Of Mining:

This is a sodium bicarbonate in-situ solution mine, 112 HR. Mining operations have not yet commenced. Only groundwater monitoring activities have taken place to date. Prior to commencement of mining the permit will be required to convert to a Designated Mining Operation 112d-3 permit.

Topsoil:

The limited amount of topsoil present on site was stockpiled for reclamation. Topsoil piles have are stabilized with vegetation (Photo Four).

No problems or violations were noted during this inspection.

Responses to this inspection report should be directed to: Amy Yeldell at the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, Rm 215, 1001 E 62nd Ave, Denver Co 80216. Direct contact can be made by phone at 303-866-3567 Ext 8183 or via email at amy.yeldell@state.co.us

Inspection Contact Address

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Enclosure: 4 photos

EC:

Jerry Daub
James Roberts, BLM
Travis Marshall, Senior EPS, Grand Junction DRMS
Todd Jesse, DRMS

PHOTOGRAPHS





Photo Three: RS-95-20-1 Pad, vegetation volunteering.



Photo Four: Topsoil stockpiled in small berm on the uphill side of the pads