




**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> Liberty Mine	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-2013-070	<b>MINERAL:</b> Uranium and vanadium	<b>COUNTY:</b> Mesa
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>WEATHER:</b> Clear	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> August 23, 2023	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 13:15
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Liberty Mining, LLC	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> None	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 110d - Designated Limited Impact	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Normal I&E Program	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> None	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$93,862.42	
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> DRMS	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> U.S.BLM	
<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Amy Yeldell	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> September 21, 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>Y</u>	(FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY----- <u>N</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>Y</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>N</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>Y</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>NA</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>Y</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>Y</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>Y</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>NA</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 (Division) normal monitoring program. The Liberty Mine is a 110d underground Designated Mining Operation that includes a total of 9.9 permitted acres. The site is located five mile south of Gateway, Colorado. Amy Yeldell of the Division conducted the inspection. Brittany Cocina of the Bureau of Land Management accompanied the Division on the inspection. No representatives from Liberty Mining, LLC was present, however they were notified prior to the inspection.

The site remains inactive. This permit has been issued however, activity has not yet commenced on site. Given that, the site has not begun mining and is in compliance with Rule 1.13. As a reminder, please provide the Division with a 60 day notice of commencement prior to commencement of mining activities.

Site conditions similar as compared with the previous inspection. The mine sign and boundary markers remain in place and in compliance with Rule 3.1.12. The gate to the access road remains closed and locked (Photo One). The access road was stable, but is beginning to show signs of erosion. Sedimentation was observed at the pad entrance from where water traveled down the road (Photo Two). Erosion control features or some form of re-blading of the road will likely be necessary in the next few years. The road will require maintenance prior to commencement of mining. There is no evidence of recent use. Scrub Oak and other native vegetation has begun to volunteer on the road. The site was accessed on foot, access with a full size vehicle would be difficult.

The portal is sealed with locked grates and PUFF (Photo Three). The exterior grate was partially opened at the time of the inspection but the inner grate was locked. The portal remains locked and secured. The cut walls along the ramp to the portal opening have begun to show signs of weathering/erosion. Some sluffing was observed. As well as sedimentation down the ramp (Photo Four). Additional bracing in the next few years will also probably become necessary regardless of mining activity/status.

The explosive magazines remain on site as does some other misc. metal materials. The magazines were both locked and the Division could not inspect the contents. The waste rock pile appears to be stable. There is no erosion from the pile.

Some plants have volunteered throughout the site. Primarily scrub oak, rabbit brush and perennial grasses. As compared to previous inspections the site has become overwhelmed with Wright's Bird's Beak (*Cordylanthus wrightii*). This flower is native and seems to have a cyclical cycle, in that it is abundant one year then absent for many years (Photos Five and Six, the lime green plants). In addition to Wright's Bird's Beak lots of sunflowers and curlycup gumweed were observed as compared to previous inspections (Photo Seven). Noxious weeds appeared to be well controlled and no infestations were observed.

The Division currently holds a financial warranty amount of \$93,862.42 for this site. Upon commencement of mining the Division will recalculate the reclamation cost estimate to ensure that the financial warranty is sufficient to conduct reclamation of an active mine site. Note that reclamation cost have significantly increased since permit issuance in 2015 and a Surety Increase should be expected.

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, Room 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**

Catherine Bonde  
Liberty Mining, LLC  
1300 South Highway 191  
Moab, UT 84532

Enclosure

EC:  
Travis Marshall, DRMS  
Brittany Cocina, BLM

**PHOTOGRAPHS**







Photo 2: Sedimentation coming off of mine access road



Photo 3: Portal entrance





Photo 4: Erosion and sedimentation into the portal ramp



Photo 5: Wright's Bird's Beak (lime green) all over access road



