




**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> Whirlwind Mine	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-2007-044	<b>MINERAL:</b> Uranium and vanadium	<b>COUNTY:</b> Mesa
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>WEATHER:</b> Clear	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> August 30, 2023	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 10:30
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Energy Fuels Resources (USA) Inc.	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Todd Eldredge	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 112d-1 - Designated Mining Operation	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Normal I&E Program	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> None	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$375,078.00	
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> U.S. Energy	<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>N</u>	(FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY----- <u>NA</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>Y</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>NA</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>NA</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>Y</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>Y</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 (Division) normal monitoring program. The Whirlwind Mine is a 112d-1 underground Designated Mining Operation that includes a total of 31.9 permitted acres with a maximum disturbance of 22.6 acres. To date approximately 12 acres have been affected. The site is located seven mile southeast of Gateway, Colorado. Amy Yeldell of the Division conducted the inspection. Todd Eldredge of Energy Fuels Resources (USA) Inc. and Brittany Cocina with BLM were also present for the inspection.

The mine identification sign and affected area boundary markers are in place and in compliance with Rule 3.1.12. The buildings and water treatment areas were fenced off. The buildings were unlocked at opened at the time of the inspection since crews were on site working (photo one). The water treatment area remains locked as no work in this area is occurring (photo two).

As of June 7, 2022 per CS-1 the site is in active status after having been in temporary cessation for an extended period of time. Crews resumed their second season of safety rehab work of the tunnel on April 25, 2023 (photo six). They will continue to work until weather shuts them down for the winter. Crews are estimated to be approximate 1400 LF down the existing tunnel so far. Waste rock is being removed from the tunnel as needed and stored on the waste rock storage pad. Since the previous inspection the pad has been pushed out to the north approximately 10 to 15 feet and is progressing to the east to meet with the rest of the waste rock pile (photo three). Damaged sections are being replaced and the pipe is being reinstalled as rehab work progresses down the decline. Crews will likely intercept water this year and have to stop work until the mine is dewatered. No ventilation shafts have been installed to date.

The refuge chamber and water tank are stored on the ore storage pad. Underground mining equipment is also being stored on the pad while rehab work is being conducted (photo four and five). Extra timbers and steel sets of varying sizes are on site and ready for use. Waste timbers (cut excess) will be burned on site this fall/winter as weather permits. No fuel is stored on site, all fuel for equipment is brought up in slip tanks. All storage buildings/ containers appeared well organized. Since the previous inspection hard line power has been brought in.

Operator has been treating noxious weeds. If they want to use chemicals on site they first need to coordinate with BLM to get a PUP approved.

The site conditions around the water treatment system and stormwater ponds on the north side of the site remain unchanged. In order for mining to progress the underground workings must be dewatered and that water must be treated. Prior to the installation of a new system a technical revision will be required.

Additionally per the approval of CS-1, prior to any additional developments of mine workings, the underground portion of the reclamation cost estimate specifically, the bulkhead costs, will need to be re-evaluated. The Operator will need to provide the Division with three bids from independent contractors for the scope of work outlined under the Division's Memo: Cost Estimate for Water Impounding Concrete Bulkheads dated Nov. 14, 2007. Any additional financial warranty required to cover the underground closures will need to be posted prior to work commencing. For the time being the Division currently holds a financial warranty amount of \$375,078 for this site.

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 303-8663576 Ext 8183 or via email at amy.yeldell@state.co.us

**Inspection Contact Address**

Todd Eldredge  
Energy Fuels Resources (USA) Inc.  
225 Union Blvd Suite 600  
Lakewood, CO 80228

Enclosure

EC:  
Travis Marshall, Senior EPS, Grand Junction DRMS  
Brittany Cocina, BLM

**PHOTOGRAPHS**







Photo 2: Overview of water treatment area



Photo 3: additional waste rock placed on north side of pile





Photo 4: Overview of site



Photo 5: Over view of storage on waste rock pile





Photo 6: Whirlwind portal entrance.