

**STATE OF  
COLORADO****Wein - DNR, Clayton <clayton.wein@state.co.us>**

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## Apex Lode, M-2014-011, DRMS Final Inspection Report

1 message

**Wein - DNR, Clayton <clayton.wein@state.co.us>**

Thu, Nov 2, 2023 at 2:00 PM

To: George Strong &lt;gpsales20@gmail.com&gt;

Cc: scott.a.scifres@usda.gov

Good afternoon Mr. Strong,

Attached is the Division's report for the final inspection/surety release inspection of the Apex Lode, Permit No. M-2014-011. The Division recommends that you apply for full and final release of the performance and financial warranty for your site. I have included the release request form for you with this email. Please submit the form no later than 60 days from today. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

**Clayton Wein****Environmental Protection Specialist****COLORADO**  
Division of Reclamation,  
Mining and Safety  
Department of Natural Resources

P 303.866.3567 x 8185 | F 303.832.8106

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203

[clayton.wein@state.co.us](mailto:clayton.wein@state.co.us) | <https://www.drms.colorado.gov>

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### 2 attachments

**M-2014-011, Apex Lode Bond Release Request Inspection\_CCW.pdf**

1016K


**MineralsReleaseRequestForm (1).pdf**

242K



**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> Apex Lode	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-2014-011	<b>MINERAL:</b> Zinc and silver	<b>COUNTY:</b> Garfield
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Surety Release Inspection	<b>WEATHER:</b> Clear	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> September 19, 2023	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 09:30
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Strong Mining Company	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> George Strong	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 110(1) - Hard Rock Limited Impact	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Surety Release Requested	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b>	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$34,308.00	
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> U.S.Forest Service	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None	
<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Clayton Wein	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> November 2, 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>N</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>N</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>Y</u>	(BG) BACKFILL & GRADING----- <u>Y</u>	(EX) EXPLOSIVES----- <u>N</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- <u>N</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>N</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>N</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>Y</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>Y</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>N</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>Y</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>N</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>Y</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>N</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>Y</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>N</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>N</u>	(OD) OFF-SITE DAMAGE----- <u>N</u>	

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

## **OBSERVATIONS**

This report documents the observations made during a Surety Release inspection of the Apex Lode on September 19, 2023. The inspection was conducted by Clayton Wein of the Division. The Strong Mining Company (SMC) was represented during the inspection by George Strong. The weather was clear with a temperature starting at 48 degrees F. The ground conditions were damp.

This inspection can be considered a release inspection if a complete request for final release is submitted within 60 days of the signature date of this inspection report. The Apex Lode is located approximately 5 mile north of Glenwood Springs Colorado. The site is a permitted as a 110(1) and consists of 3 acres. The site is entirely located on U.S. Forest Service lands. The site was accessed from Forest Service Road 602.

The reclaimed access road to the site was stable with vegetative cover (Photo 1). There were no indications of erosional features. The vegetation on the reclaimed road was similar to the surrounding areas.

As per Rule 3.1.12, the mine identification sign was posted at the entrance to the permit boundary (Photo 2). The permit boundary was observed to be marked by T-posts painted red. All the markers were placed in easy to spot locations and visible from one marker to the next.

The pad where the cabin used to be located was vegetated and stable (Photo 3 and 4). The reclaimed area showed no indications of erosional features. Vegetation on the reclaimed area had grown in well and matched the surrounding areas.

The access to the portals area used to be a boardwalk made of timbers. The boardwalk had been removed (Photo 5). The slope of the area was steep and composed of a mix of vegetation and loose rock. Vegetation to rock ratio was approximately 80%:20%.

The portals and staging area were reclaimed and the portals were sealed (Photo 6). The hill side where these areas are located was extremely steep and had lots of loose rock (Photo 7). The portals seals were intact and stable. The steepness of the hill has facilitated small rockslide that have begun to cover over the portals and staging area. Due to the steepness of the hill, vegetation was sparse. All timbers from the portals and boardwalk have been removed from the site. PUF Closure method was used to seal the portals. All 2 inch rail had been removed from the site.

Based on the Division's observations during the inspection, the operator has completed reclamation in accordance with the M-2014-011 permit. Therefore, the Division recommends that the operator apply for full and final release for the entire permitted area. Attached to the end of this report is the Division's for to request full and final release of the performance and financial warranty.

Responses to this inspection report should be directed to: Clayton Wein at the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203. Direct contact can be made by phone at (303)-866-3567 x8185 or by email at [clayton.wein@state.co.us](mailto:clayton.wein@state.co.us).



## PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo 1: Reclaimed and revegetated access road.



Photo 2: The mine id sign posted at the entrance to the permit boundary.

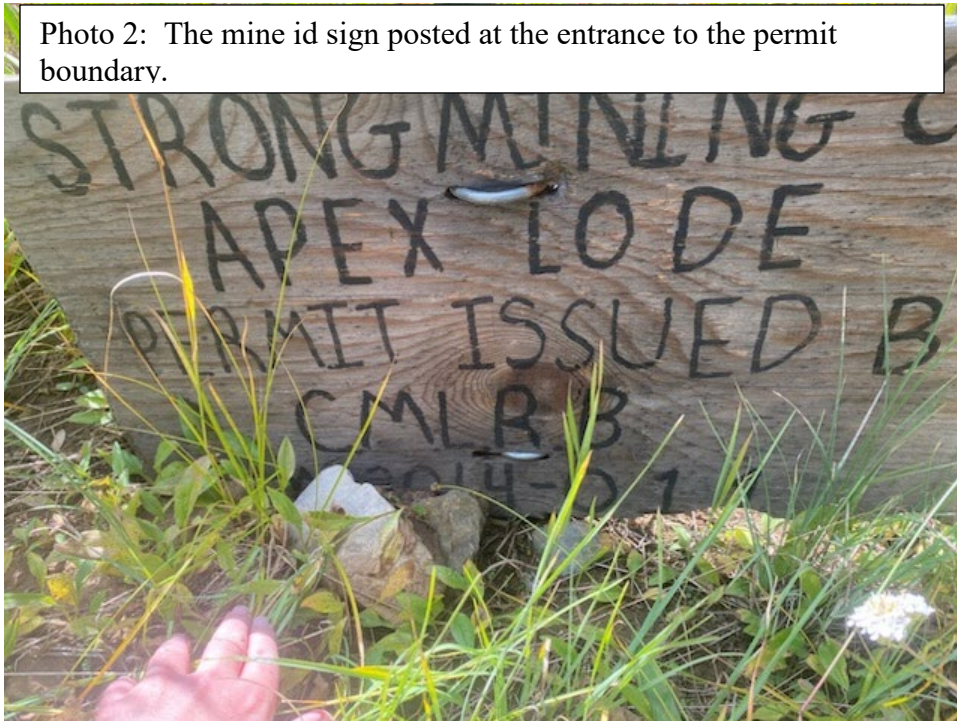




Photo 3: The reclaimed cabin pad.

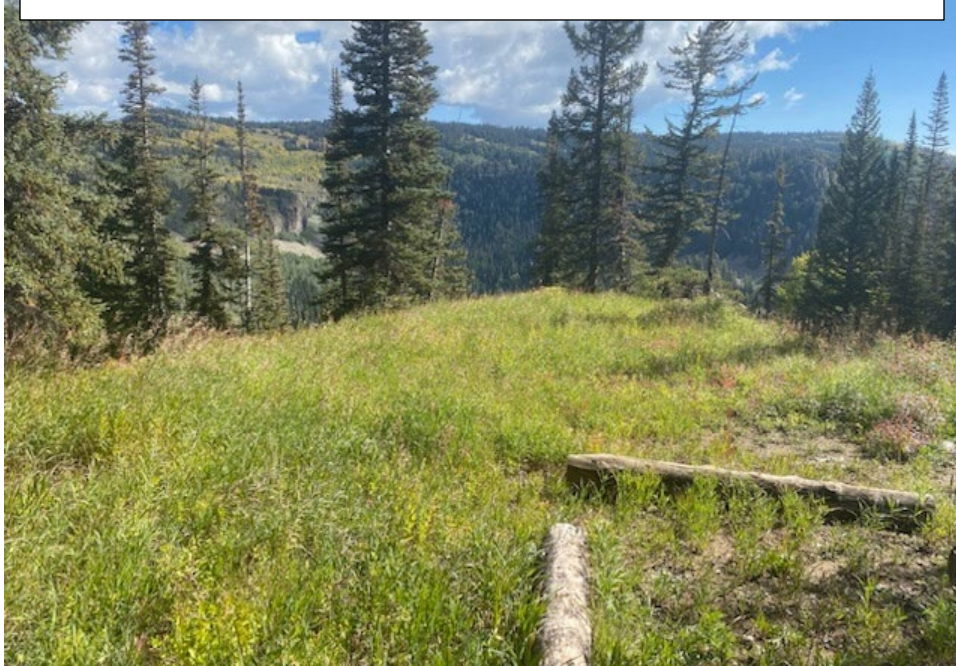


Photo 4: Vegetated and stable reclaimed pad.

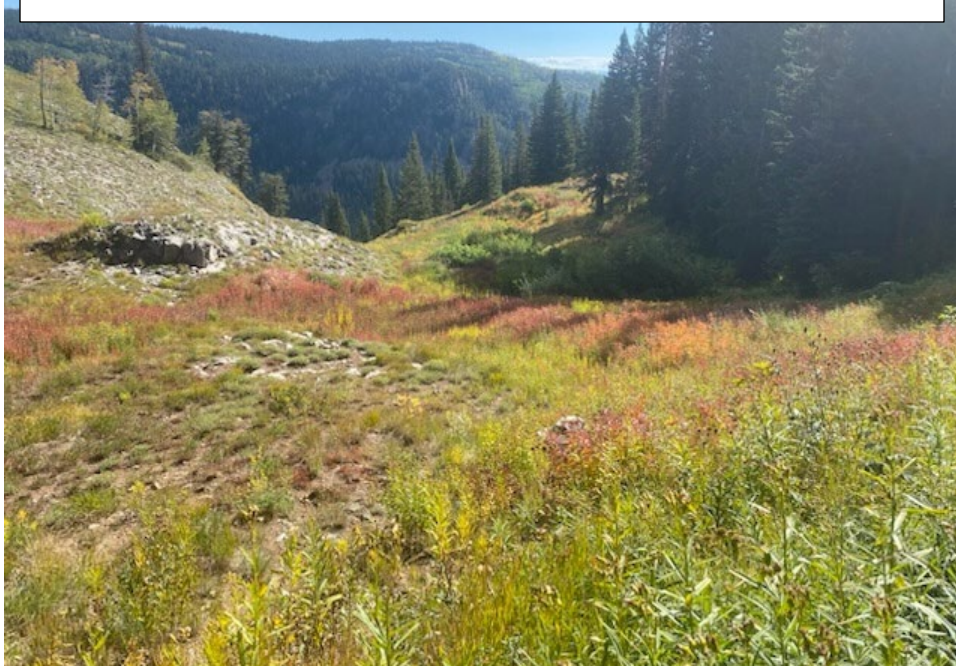




Photo 5: The reclaimed hillside where the boardwalk used to be.

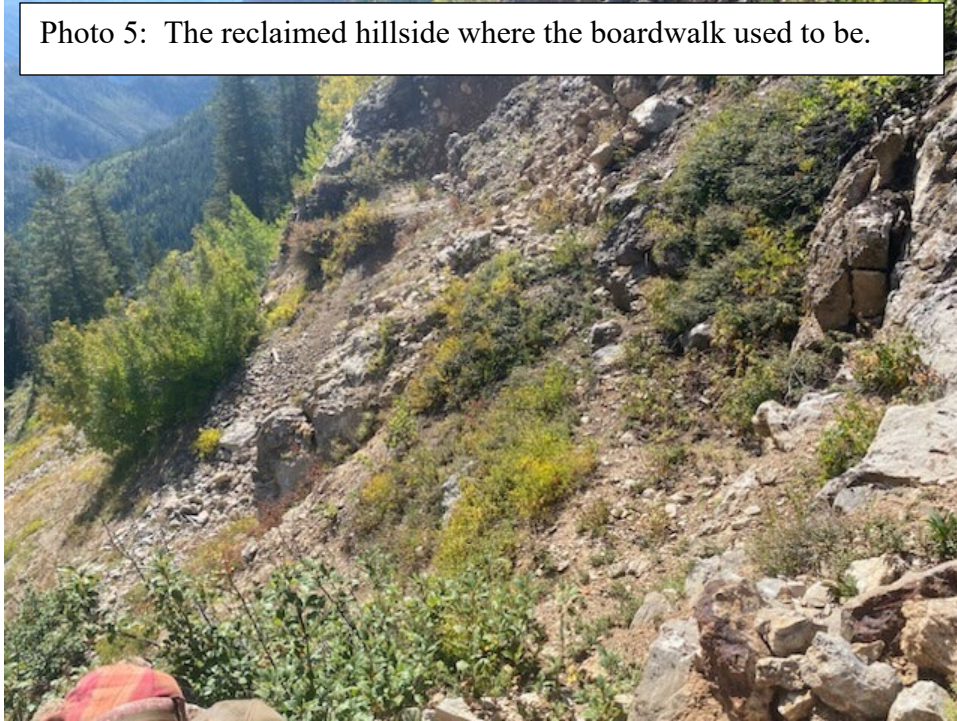


Photo 6: The reclaimed lower portal sealed with the PUF method.

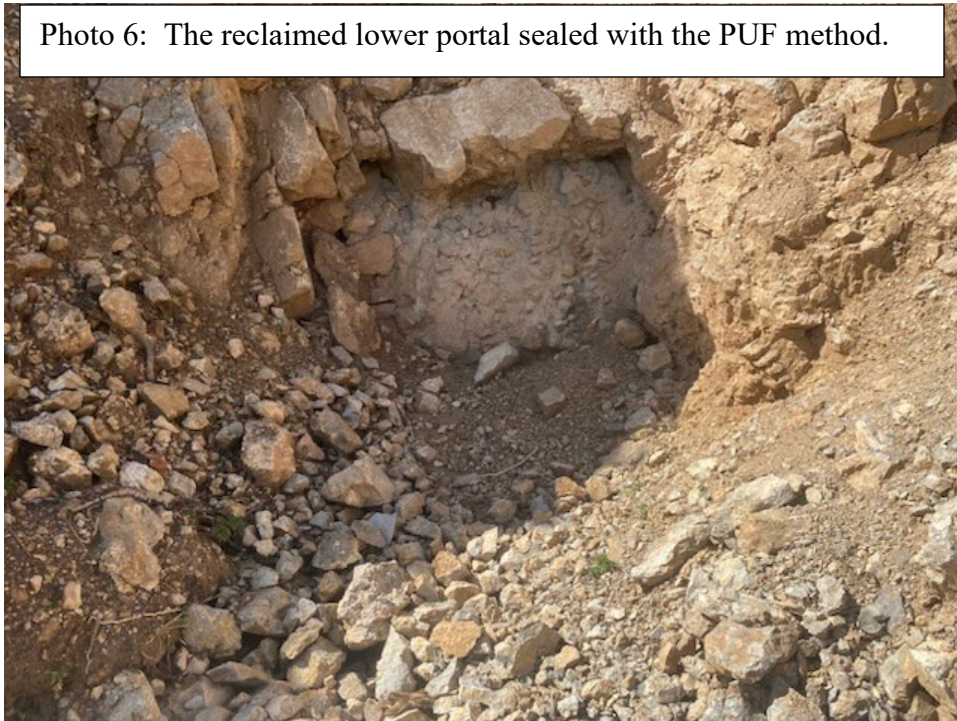


Photo 7: The steep hillside above the lower portal.





**Inspection Contact Address**

George Strong  
Strong Mining Company  
1505 East 12th Street  
Rifle, CO 81650

Enclosure

CC: Travis Marshall, Senior Environmental Protection Specialist  
Scott Scifres, United States Forest Service