




**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> Thorson Mine	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1981-020	<b>MINERAL:</b> Anhydrite, gypsum	<b>COUNTY:</b> Fremont
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Surety-Related Inspection	<b>WEATHER:</b> Clear	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> March 21, 2024	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 10:00
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Indian Springs Ranch, LLP	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Ina Finch	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 110c - Construction Limited Impact	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Surety Related	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> Complete Bond	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$2,500.00	
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> None	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None	
<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Hunter Ridley	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> March 28, 2024	

**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>Y</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>Y</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>Y</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>Y</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>N</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>N</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>Y</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**

The Thorson was inspected by Hunter Ridley with the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division). The inspection was completed in response to the Operator's request for a second period of Temporary Cessation. The site was previously inspected by the Division on June 15, 2021 as part of the Division's routine monitoring program. Ina Finch, representing the Operator, accompanied the Division during the inspection. Thorson Mine is a 110c gypsum mine located approximately 2 miles west of Phantom Canyon Road (CR 67), about 4 miles north of US Hwy 50 between Penrose and Cañon City, CO.

The site was not active at the time of the inspection, nor were there signs of recent activity. Previously, the Operator had discussed sale of the site to a nearby large mining company. Further discussions of this sale have been on hold since the site's last inspection.

No problems were identified on-site during the inspection. Therefore, the Division will bring the TC2 request before the Mined Land and Reclamation Board at the April 17, 2024 MLRB meeting and will recommend approval at that time.

**Availability of Records:** Annual fees are paid through May 2023. The previous inspection was on June 15, 2021. The approved post-mine land use is rangeland. There are no open infractions. Both the surface and minerals are privately owned. The site entered temporary cessation in 2013 and resumed activity in February 2017. The Operator entered back into Temporary Cessation status on February 24, 2017. Due to an error in reporting on Annual Reports, an application for TC1 was not received by the Division. The second period of Temporary Cessation will be retroactive to February 24, 2022, and will expire on February 24, 2027. Prior to this date, the Operator hopes to have sold the operation. If not, they have committed to beginning final reclamation at the site.

**Backfilling and Grading:** Sufficient backfill material appeared to be available as there is ample room to push material down to fill the few benches. The Operator stated a small pile of bentonite could also be used to fill in slopes (Photo 4).

**Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste:** No overburden piles were observed.

**Financial Warranty:** The \$2,500 bond held by the Division is adequate for the ~ 0.5 acres of observed mine disturbance.

**Fish and Wildlife:** No impact to wildlife was observed.

**Hydrologic Balance:** No standing water was observed in the pit and no exposed groundwater was observed.

**Gen. Compliance with Mine Plan:** The operation appeared to be in compliance with the approved mine plan. Observed benches are estimated between 8 and 10 feet high (Photos 3 and 4). The approved mine plan states benches can be no higher than 20 ft. In final reclamation, slopes will vary from 2H:1V to 4H:1V, with multi-bench safety berms that allow for a final 1H:1V to 2H:1 slope, which blends into the hillside above the quarry. The maximum allowed disturbed area is 9.8 acres. Google Earth was used to measure the disturbed area, which was estimated to be ~ 0.5 acres, based on 2019 imagery.

**Off-site Damage:** The operation appeared to be confined to the permit boundary, based on Google Earth review and site observations.

**Roads:** The access road did not appear to be a source of sediment that could be tracked offsite.

**Right of Entry:** The site is owned by the Operator, Indian Springs Ranch, LLP.

**Reclamation Success:** No active reclamation has been initiated.

**Revegetation:** The site has not been seeded; however, some volunteer vegetation was observed across the pit floor and on benches. No noxious weeds were observed.

**Sediment Control:** No BMPs were needed at the time of the inspection.

**Support Facilities On-site:** A screen and conveyor (Photo 2) were observed on site.

**Signs and Markers:** The permit sign was properly posted (Photo 1) and boundary markers were observed to be in place along the permit boundary, far from the current disturbance.

**Permit Stipulations:** There are no permit stipulations.

**Storm Water MGT Plan:** No oil or fuel spills, nor stormwater retention was observed.

**Structures:** No structures within 200 ft of the permit boundary were observed.

Photographs taken during the inspection and a site map outlining the current disturbance boundary have been included below. Responses to this inspection report should be directed to: Hunter Ridley at the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, 1313 Sherman St., Room 215, Denver, CO 80203. Direct contact can be made by phone at 720-868-7757 or via email at [hunter.ridley@state.co.us](mailto:hunter.ridley@state.co.us).

### **PHOTOGRAPHS**



**Figure 1: Mine sign posted in accordance with Rule 3.1.12.**





**Figure 2: View east of disturbed area from above slope, a screen and conveyor are visible below.**



**Figure 3: View west of mined slope and existing benches.**





**Figure 4: View of existing benches and a small pile of bentonite, considered overburden in this landscape.**

**Inspection Contact Address**

Ina Finch  
Indian Springs Ranch, LLP  
3257 CR 67  
Penrose, CO 81240



# Thorson Mine M-1981-020

Legend

Disturbed Area ~0.5 Acres

Permit Boundary

