



**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> Strang Herefords	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-2024-042	<b>MINERAL:</b> Borrow	<b>COUNTY:</b> Rio Blanco
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Illegal(Unpermitted Operation)	<b>WEATHER:</b> Clear	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> August 7, 2024	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 08:10
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Mary Strang	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Mary Strang	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> ILL - Illegal	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Citizen Complaint	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> None	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> None	
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> 8/4/2024	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> None	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None	
<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Amy Yeldell	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> August 29, 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>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>NA</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>NA</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>N</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>NA</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>N</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>Y</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>NA</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>N</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>N</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>NA</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>Y</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>NA</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**

On August 2, 2024, the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) received an anonymous citizen complain regarding potential illegal. On August 5, 2024, the Division spoke on the phone with Mary Strang of Strang Herefords & Black Angus notify her of the complaint and set up an investigation inspection. During the phone call it was explained by Mrs. Strang that they periodically take borrow material from the existing highwall and transport it down CR 6 to use on their private ranch. Material is used to smooth out culvert crossings to access various hay fields via tractor with trailer. The excavation site is located in Rio Blanco County at the intersection of CR 8 and CR 6 (40° 1'51.71"N and 107°49'42.87"W).

On August 7 2024, the Division conducted a site inspection of the area pertaining to the citizen complaint. Amy Yeldell of the Division conducted the inspection and Mary Strang was also present. The Anonymous complainant was not present for the inspection.

During the inspection Mrs. Strang clarified that the excavation area is located on private property as is the location to where the material is going. She hires an excavator to knock down material from the highwall. The material is then loaded via skid steer into a dump trailer for off-site as needed. The material is not sold to the public.

The highwall is near vertical and is approximately 20 feet high by 100 yards wide. Most of the 'pit' floor is covered in vegetation from infrequent and sporadic use. Vegetation consists of mature sage brush and a variety of perennial grasses. There is a small stockpile (2cy) at the base of the highwall. In general the pit floor is a bowl below the grade of the adjacent county road and there is no potential for off-site damage as all erosion drains in. The total disturbance associated with activity is less than 0.25 ac. There is no fuel, equipment, or other mining related debris located on site. The front portion of the property appears to have been reseeded via drill as part of a ROW project, not mining related.

Based on Google Earth Imagery this excavation scar has been in existence since at least 1993. No older imagery was available. The general shape and scare appears to be relatively unchanged with no visibly identifiable changes since 2005. This further reinforces the assumption that activity is few and far between.

On August 8, 2024, the Division also provided Mrs. Strang with the "Is it Mining?" questionnaire. The Division received the completed form on August 19, 2024. A formal determination regarding the need for a permit will be sent under a separate cover.

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 970-210-1272 or via email at [amy.yeldell@state.co.us](mailto:amy.yeldell@state.co.us)

### **Inspection Contact Address**

Mary Strang  
Strang Herefords  
2969 County Road 8  
Meeker, CO 81641

**PHOTOGRAPHS**





