



STATE OF
COLORADO

Girardi - DNR, Chris <chris.girardi@state.co.us>

Peat Mine M1994081- Inspection Problems Extension Approval

1 message

Girardi - DNR, Chris <chris.girardi@state.co.us>

Wed, Jan 29, 2025 at 2:43 PM

To: Brandon Garrison <brandongarrison39@gmail.com>

Cc: Marcus Mortensen <mortensenmw@gmail.com>, Jared Ebert - DNR <jared.ebert@state.co.us>

Good afternoon,

Attached to this email correspondence granting the extension request to address inspection problems from the September 2024 Inspection.

A hard copy will not be mailed unless requested.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Chris Girardi

Environmental Protection Specialist Intern



COLORADO
Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety
Department of Natural Resources

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InspectionProblemsExtension_PeatMine_M1994081.pdf

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COLORADO
Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety
Department of Natural Resources

January 29, 2025

Mr. Brandon Garrison
Mortensen's Landscape & Irrigation, LLC
5868 Road 106 South
Alamosa, CO 81101

Re: Outstanding Corrective Actions, Peat Mine, Permit No. M-1994-081

Mr. Garrison:

On September 6, 2024, the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division/DRMS) performed a routine monitoring inspection of the Peat Mine, M1994-081. As a result of the inspection, the Division cited problems, see below, that had corrective action due dates on or before December 13, 2024. The Division sent a Notice Past Due of Inspection Problems letter on December 31, 2024 and on January 28, 2025, the Division received an extension request to address the following outstanding items:

1. INSPECTION TOPIC: Signs and markers

PROBLEM: The mine identification sign and affected area boundary markers were not observed.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: In accordance with Rule 3.1.12, the Operator must post a sign at the entrance to the mine site which shall be clearly visible from the access road and specify the following; the name of the operator, indicate the permit number, and indicate the reclamation permit for the operation has been issued by the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board. Conduct a survey and mark the approved affected land. The boundaries of the affected area must be marked by monuments or other markers that are clearly visible and adequate to delineate such boundaries. Please provide the Division a notice when this has been completed.

2. INSPECTION TOPIC: Revegetation

PROBLEM: There are state-listed noxious weeds present on site. This is a problem for failure to employ weed control methods for state listed noxious weed species within the permitted area, and to reduce the spread of weeds to nearby areas as required by Section 3.1.10 (6) of the rule.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: Submit a schedule to implement the approved weed control plan and provide proof to the Division that this has been done. The DRMS approved a Technical Revision (TR-1) on 12/19/2016, which was a Weed Management Plan. Per the approved plan, if weeds have



been identified, the Operator is required to use a backpack sprayer or a 4-wheeler using chemicals approved by and after consultation with Alamosa County and the San Luis Valley Weed Management Association. Please provide a written response to the Division that identifies a timeline for implementing the approved weed management plan.

3. **INSPECTION TOPIC:** Mine Plan

PROBLEM: The Operator is not adhering to the approved mining plan of conducting mining in 10-acre phases. The current mine plan needs to be updated and clarified pursuant to C.R.S. 34-32.5-112(1)(c)(VI). The operator must provide sufficient information to describe or identify how the operator intends to conduct the operation.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: The Operator shall submit a Technical Revision (TR) to update the mining plan, with the required \$216 revision fee, to update and clarify the current approved mine plan to reflect existing and proposed activities by the corrective action date.

The Division hereby grants an extension to **March 3, 2025**, to address the corrective actions. Please note that if the corrective actions are not properly addressed, and evidence provided to the Division by the date provided above, the listed problems could be escalated to the level of possible violation and referred to the Mined Land Reclamation Board for further action.

If you have any questions, please contact me by email at chris.girardi@state.co.us.

Sincerely,



Chris Girardi
Environmental Protection Specialist Intern

cc: Jared Ebert; DRMS
Marcus Mortensen, Mortensen's Landscape & Irrigation, LLC