



STATE OF
COLORADO

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

Passiflora NOI P2024011- Inspection Report

1 message

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

Thu, Feb 20, 2025 at 1:32 PM

To: HARALD HOEGBERG <geohog@comcast.net>

Cc: Jared Ebert - DNR <jared.ebert@state.co.us>, "Pike, James D" <jpike@blm.gov>

Hello Harald,

Attached to this email is the Division's Inspection Report for the inspection conducted on February 7, 2025.

A hard copy will not be mailed unless requested.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Chris Girardi

Environmental Protection Specialist Intern



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

P: (720) 793-3041

Physical: 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203

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PassifloraNOI_P2024011_February2025Inspection.pdf
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COLORADO

Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety


Department of Natural Resources

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.

MINE NAME: Passiflora	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: P-2024-011	MINERAL: Silver, Base metals	COUNTY: Custer
INSPECTION TYPE: Mineral Prospect Inspection	WEATHER: Windy	INSP. DATE: February 7, 2025	INSP. TIME: 10:30am
OPERATOR: Viscount Colorado Holdings, LTD	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Christina Ricks	TYPE OF OPERATION: MP - Mineral Prospecting	

REASON FOR INSPECTION: Citizen Complaint	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: None	BOND AMOUNT: \$70,675.00
DATE OF COMPLAINT: February 3, 2025	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None
INSPECTOR(S): Chris Girardi	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: February 20, 2025

The following inspection topics were identified as having Problems or Possible Violations. OPERATORS SHOULD READ THE FOLLOWING PAGES CAREFULLY IN ORDER TO ASSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE PERMIT AND APPLICABLE RULES AND REGULATIONS. If a Possible Violation is indicated, you will be notified under separate cover as to when the Mined Land Reclamation Board will consider possible enforcement action.

INSPECTION TOPIC: Acid And Toxic Materials

PROBLEM: The Operator is storing drilling fluids without secondary containment.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: All storage tanks, petroleum and any hazardous materials on site for any period of time shall have appropriate secondary containment. Please clarify the nature of the drilling fluids using Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs). Please supply photo documentation that any fuel or hazardous materials containers are stored properly - including applicable secondary containment structures by the corrective action date.

CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE: 3/21/25

OBSERVATIONS

The Passiflora Notice of Intent (NOI), project number P-2024-011 was inspected by Chris Girardi of the Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety (DRMS/Division) on February 7, 2025. The inspection was conducted in response to a compliant received by the Division on February 3, 2025, regarding improper storage of materials, leaking of fluids onto County Road 240, and equipment staging onto County Road 240. Godbe Drilling is the contractor conducting the drilling on behalf of Viscount Colorado Holdings, LTD. Christina Ricks represented the Operator during the inspection. The weather was sunny and windy.

The Passiflora NOI is a prospecting operation located approximately four miles north of Silver Cliff and Westcliffe, Colorado. The surrounding land use is rangeland and residential. The drilling area slopes to the north. The surrounding area contains well-established vegetation consisting of Rubber rabbitbrush, Yucca, and wheatgrasses (see Photos 3-4). The NOI was approved by the Division on January 21, 2025. Drilling operations commenced shortly afterward.

The Passiflora NOI project is approved to drill one borehole to a maximum depth of 5,000 feet. The Division had received a compliant and photo documentation of drilling equipment in the middle of County Road 240. During the time of the inspection, no equipment was located in the road or any evidence of fluid spills (see Photos 1-2). According to the Operator, approximately 1,000 gallons of water spilled from the water truck along County Road 240. This water came from the empty water container located outside of the utility trailer (see Photo 9).

The drilling operations, equipment, and disturbance observed were indicative of the scope of work approved by the Division. The work/staging area consisted of the drill rig, several trucks, an excavator loader combo equipment, a utility trailer, and a horse trough containing several chemicals (see Photos 5, 6, 8, and 11). A stockpile of drill pipes was observed as well (see Photo 7). According to the Operator, the utility trailer is storing water tanks and propane bottles. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) conducted an inspection of the NOI on February 5, 2025 and observed hydrocarbon spills within the staging area. However, it appears the Operator cleaned up the hydrocarbon spill(s) before the Division's inspection as no evidence of fuel spills were observed in the staging or drilling area.

The Operator is approved to use mud pits for drilling operations. Mud pits were observed adjacent to the north of the drill rig (see Photos 10-11). The mud pits were sealed off using snow fencing. According to the Operator, the mud pits are approximately eight feet in depth. A topsoil stockpile was observed adjacent to the east of the mud pits (see Photo 12). According to the Operator, approximately eight (8) to ten (10) inches of topsoil was encountered when the mud pits were dug. Overburden stockpiles were observed to the north of the mud pits (see Photos 11-12). At the time of inspection, the Operator had drilled to a depth of 1,665 feet. In addition, the Operator stated they are only using the overhead lights at half power at night due to complaints regarding light pollution.

Considering the drill rig, mud pits, stockpiles, drilling equipment, it appears that approximately 0.28 acres have been disturbed (see Photo 13 showing disturbed area polygon). This is slightly larger than what the operator had indicated would be disturbed during the operation. However, the entire affected area will be required to be reclaimed in accordance with the approved plan. This measurement did not include minor vehicular

disturbance connecting the drilling area and County Road 240. The Operator must take precautions to minimize the drilling disturbance pursuant to Rule 5.3.1. The BLM inspection report indicated that an "after action report" will need to be submitted by the Operator to reflect the additional disturbance. The Division requests a copy of this report once it is submitted to the BLM.

Photo 6 shows dozens of white plastic buckets situated on pallets in the staging area. According to the Operator, these buckets contain drilling fluids. The Division notes that storage using pallets is inadequate as secondary containment. This has been cited as a problem. Please provide Material Safety Data Sheet(s) (MSDSs) to clarify the nature of the drilling fluids. If the fluids are considered hazardous, then the Operator will be required to implement secondary containment structures.

The Division currently holds a reclamation bond in the amount of \$70,675.00 for this operation. The Division determined that the current reclamation bond is adequate. This concludes the Division's inspection report; a subset of photos was taken during the time of the inspection are included below. If you need additional information or have any questions, please contact me at the Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety, 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203, by telephone at (720) 793-3041 or by email at chris.girardi@state.co.us.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: View of County Road 240 to the south of the drilling project, facing west.



Photo 2: View of the drilling project and County Road 240, facing north.



Photo 3: Native vegetation, facing west.



Photo 4: Native vegetation along County Road 240, facing southwest.



Photo 5: View of trucks, drill rig, drilling piping, facing east.



Photo 6: View of the containers with drilling fluids, utility truck, and lights, facing west.



Photo 7: Drilling piping storage, facing south.



Photo 8: Excavator and loader combo equipment within permit area, facing south.



Photo 9: Empty water storage container, tires, and drilling piping along the northern extent of permit area, facing north.



Photo 10: View of two mud pits contained within snow fencing, facing east.



Photo 11: View of the mud pits, overburden stockpiles to the north, storage container, and horse trough containing machinery fluids.



Photo 12: View of overburden stockpiles to the north of the mud pits.

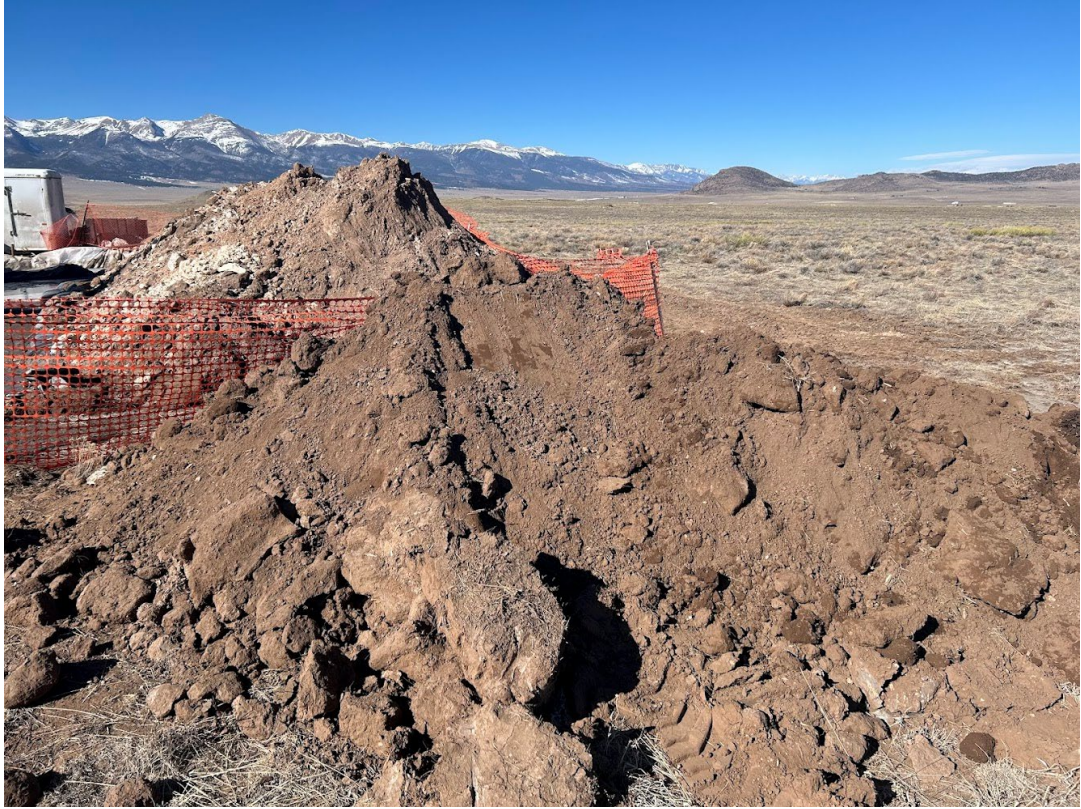


Photo 12: View of the topsoil stockpile and overburden stockpiles, facing west.

Photo 13: Imagery of affected acreage polygon collected using Arc Field Maps.
Collected on 2/7/2025.



GENERAL INSPECTION TOPICS

The following list identifies the environmental and permit parameters inspected and gives a categorical evaluation of each

(AR) RECORDS----- <u>N</u>	(FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY----- <u>N</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>Y</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>N</u>	(BG) BACKFILL & GRADING----- <u>N</u>	(EX) EXPLOSIVES----- <u>N</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- <u>N</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>Y</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>Y</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>Y</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>N</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>N</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>N</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>N</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>N</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>PB</u>	(OD) OFF-SITE DAMAGE----- <u>Y</u>	

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

Inspection Contact Address

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