

# 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:	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:	MINERAL:	COUNTY:
Elm Road Project	File No. M-2025-005	Not Specified	Larimer
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b>	WEATHER:	INSP. DATE:	INSP. TIME:
Illegal(Unpermitted Operation)	Clear	February 27, 2025	10:00
OPERATOR:	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b>	TYPE OF OPERATION:	
Nathan Reed	Nathan Reed, Chris Reed	ILL - Illegal	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b>	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b>	BOND AMOUNT:	
Citizen Complaint	N/A	N/A	
DATE OF COMPLAINT:	POST INSP. CONTACTS:	JOINT INSP. AGENCY:	
N/A	None	None	
INSPECTOR(S):	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b>	SIGNATURE DAT	'E:
Joel Renfro	$\bigcirc 10$	March 20, 2025	
Amy Eschberger	Kinto		
	Cont - We		

# **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>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>N</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL <u>N</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>N</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE <u>N</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION <u>N</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS <u>N</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 Y	(ST) STIPULATIONS <u>N</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS <u>N</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

# **OBSERVATIONS**

This inspection was conducted by Joel Renfro and Amy Eschberger with the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division/DRMS) on February 27, 2025. This inspection was in response to an anonymous illegal mining complaint received by the Division on January 22, 2025. The complaint was targeted toward activity on land owned by 12576 Holdings, LLC. Nathan and Chris Reed were present during the inspection and represented 12576 Holdings, LLC. **Photos 1-9** are included with this report.

This site is located in Estes Park, Colorado, just east of Elm Road, approximately 0.5 mile north of its intersection with US-36. The specific location of the complaint is within Larimer County parcel number 3526452001, owned by 12576 Holdings, LLC.

The complaint detailed concerns about the lack of a stormwater management plan and whether or not the project will have a reclamation plan. It is important to note that this land parcel used to have a reclamation permit under the name Nytes Land Leveling, Permit No. M1981-204. This permit was reclaimed and released on December 21, 2012, with Industrial/Commercial being the post mine land use. TR-1 for this site was issued on March 15, 2012, revising the reclamation plan and allowing a steeper slope to be backfilled, as well as approving the usage of inert material fill.

During this inspection, the Division observed significant differences at the site from how it appeared when it was released in 2012. There are two propane tanks stored on the southern end of the parcel, with a concrete retaining wall just north of the tanks. These tanks are stored with a propane supplier company called Polar Gas. The previously reclaimed slope just north of these tanks shows signs of disturbance. The backfilled material has been dug up right up to a vertical layer of bedrock, where the previous operation had stopped mining. No construction equipment was observed on site at the time of inspection, but there was evidence of track marks in the dirt, and the landowner did confirm that machinery was being used to extract material. The Division was informed that Bill Fairbanks with Fairbanks Excavation, an excavating contractor in Estes Park, had been granted permission by the landowner to dig out the fill material and use it as fill on other construction projects.

Nathan Reed brought copies of a map showing the construction plan to further expand the area for propane tank storage and level out the slopes to the north to allow for parking and storage of materials. This map is enclosed with this report. It appears that the only work done on this project so far, is beginning to move the fill material in an attempt to level out the slope.

Although material is being excavated and moved off-site, the Division found that the material being moved is fill that was placed against the quarry highwall during the previous mining operation. Because non-native material has been removed, this operation does not fit the description of a mining operation as detailed in C.R.S. 34-32.5-103(13), defining it as "the development or extraction of construction material **from its natural occurrences** on affected land". Accordingly, the Division has determined that this is not a mining operation and will not require a reclamation permit with the State based on current disturbance.

Please be advised that if any material were to be removed from its natural occurrence, a reclamation permit with the State may be required. If the activity described in this report were anticipated to change, the Division recommends the landowner complete and submit to our office an Is it Mining questionnaire (form enclosed) to receive a formal determination from the Division on whether the proposed activities will require a reclamation permit.

This concludes the report.

Any questions or comments regarding this inspection report should be forwarded to Joel Renfro at the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety, 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203, via telephone at (720) 812-2002, or email at joel.renfro@state.co.us.

# **PHOTOGRAPHS**



Photo 1. Excavated area, looking east.



Photo 2. Excavated area to the left and propane tanks to the right, looking east.



Photo 3. Propane tanks in the southern portion of the parcel, the retaining wall can be seen north of the tanks, looking south.



Photo 4. View of the site from the top of the highwall, looking south.



Photo 5. View of the site from on top of the highwall, standing on the northeast parcel boundary, looking southwest.



Photo 6. The buildings are along the eastern parcel boundary and are not within the landowner's parcel, looking south.



Photo 7. View of the excavated material standing on top of it, looking southwest.



Photo 8. View of Elm Road, looking south. Site entrance indicated with yellow arrow.



Photo 9. Private Drive sign along Elm Road next to the complaint parcel, looking northwest.

## **Inspection Contact Address**

Nathan Reed nathan@pgiventures.com

Enclosures:

Aerial image of the site from Google Earth Polar Gas Site Plan Map Is It Mining Questionnaire Copy of Complaint dated 01/22/2025

CC:

Amy Eschberger, DRMS Chris Reed







RE: Need for State Reclamation Permit: "Is It Mining?"

Name:				
Street Address:				
Telephone:	( )	Mobile:	( )	
Email Address:				

Enclosed are pertinent sections of the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board (Board) Rules governing activities that do not require a reclamation permit. To determine if you need a permit for you proposed activity, first check Rule 1.2 which describes activities the Board has determined do not require state reclamation permits. If you find a match, you can proceed based on your interpretation of the rule, but at your own risk. If you are uncertain how the Rule may apply to your activity, you should answer the list of questions below with as much detail as possible. Please feel free to use additional paper, maps, and attachments to explain your project.

Please include in your determination request answers to the following questions:

1. Please provide the legal location of the proposed project and submit a site map that clearly delineates the location of the proposed extraction site and the location of the nearest city, town, and county location name.

Section:	Township:	Range:	PM	
Or NAD 2 GPS	7 X UTM	Y UTM	1	
Direction an nearest town			County:	



2. Is the site of material extraction on public or privately owned property?

Public Private

3. What type(s) of material or metal is/are proposed to be extracted and describe the physical nature of the site i.e., river terrace, rocky knob, in-stream gravel deposit, etc.?

4. What processing or extraction method(s) will be used on site? Include any equipment or chemical(s) that will be used in the processing and extraction of the materials.

5. Will the extracted material be hauled offsite or used on the same parcel of property where the material is extracted?

- 6. How will the extracted material be used on site?
- 7. If the material is hauled offsite, where will it be hauled to and what it the intended use?

- 8. What is the approximate areal extent of the proposed extraction in acres?
- 9. To what approximate depth will the extraction extend?
- 10. In cubic yards, approximately how much material will be removed:
- 11. Will material extraction involve the use of explosives?
  - Yes No
- 12. Will site of extraction result in the exposure of tributary ground water?

Yes No

13. Will either the landowner or the mine site operator receive any type of compensation, i.e., monetary, in-kind, haulage fees, etc., from the proposed material extraction?



- 14. Please supply a copy of any documents that will ensure that the area of extraction will be reclaimed to some beneficial land use once extraction activities have been completed.
- 15. Do you have permits for this activity from any other governmental agencies such as building, construction, or grading permits, and if so, what are they?

16. Are there state/federal/local agency participants in terms of funding?

Funding	Yes	No	
Design	Yes	No	
		– Pag	ge <b>4</b> of <b>8</b>

Percentages

State \_\_\_\_\_ Federal \_\_\_\_\_ Local Agency \_\_\_\_\_

17. What post mining land uses will be made of the extraction and why? (This question helps us determine the intent of the activity.)

18. What types and sizes of equipment will be used in the extraction?

Please send the completed questionnaire and any supporting materials to the Division at the address below for review.

Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety 1313 Sherman St Rm 215 Denver CO 80203

If you prefer, you may email the completed questionnaire and supporting materials to <u>drms\_info@state.co.us</u>.

The Board has directed the Division to make a decision based on the information you have supplied. We trust that the activities will be performed as represented. If we receive a complaint, we are required by law to conduct an inspection of the site. Which could result in a violation, a cease and desist order, and other corrective actions including submittal of a permit application.

If you have any questions, please contact the Division at (303)866-3567. Please feel free to visit our web site at: drms.colorado.gov for further access to the full Act and

Rules governing extraction of metals, non-metals, and construction materials in the State of Colorado.

Sincerely,

Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety Staff

Enclosure: Rule 1.2 excerpt for Hard Rock Metal Mines and Construction Materials Rule 1.2 excerpt for Hard Rock/Metal Mining

# 1.2 SCOPE OF RULE AND ACTIVITIES THAT DO NOT REQUIRE A RECLAMATION PERMIT

# 1.2.1 Specified by Rule

The Board has determined that certain types of activities do not need reclamation permits either because the excavated substance is not a mineral as defined in Section 34-32-103(7), Colorado Revised Statutes 1984, as amended or because the activity is not a mining operation as defined by Section 34-32-103(8), C.R.S. 1984, as amended. Such activities include the following:

(a) the exploration and extraction of natural petroleum in a liquid or gaseous state by means of wells or pipe;

(b) the development or extraction of coal (refer to the Colorado Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Act Section 34-33-101, et seq., C.R.S. 1984, as amended);

(c) smelting, refining, cleaning, preparation, transportation, and other off-site operations not conducted on affected land; and

(d) the extraction of geothermal or groundwater resources.

## 1.2 ACTIVITIES THAT DO NOT REQUIRE A RECLAMATION PERMIT

## 103(3) and 1.2.1 Specified by Rule

## (13)

The Board has determined that certain types of activities do not need reclamation permits either because the excavated substance is not a construction material as defined in Section 34-32.5-103(3}, Colorado Revised Statutes 1984, as amended or because the activity is not a mining operation as defined by Section 34-32.5-103(13), C.R.S. 1984, asamended. Such activities include the following:

- (a) the exploration and extraction of natural petroleum in a liquid or gaseous state by means of wells or pipe:
- (b) the development or extraction of coal (refer to the Colorado Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Act Section 34-33-101, et seq., C.R.S. 1984, as amended);
- (c) cleaning, preparation, transportation, and other off-site operations not conducted on permitted land: and
- (d) the extraction of geothermal or groundwater resources.
- 1.2.2 Reserved
- 1.2.3 Reserved
- 1.2.4 Extraction or Exploration on Federal Lands

Any person who Intends to extract or explore for construction materials on federal lands shall apply for a Mined Land Reclamation Board permit or submit a Notice of Intent to conduct exploration operations unless specifically exempted by the Board according to the provisions of this Subsection 1.2.

# **DRMS Complaint Intake Tool**



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

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By Submitting this form you are requesting an investigation of compliance with DRMS rules.

## **DRMS Internal Information**

Select Permit Type \* Minerals Permit No List \* M2025005 Date of Complaint 01/22/2025

## **COMPLAINANT INFORMATION**

\*Indicates a Required Field

#### Do you wish to remain anonymous? \*

• Yes 🔿 No

#### Connection to Incident \*

#### Select all that apply

- Land Owner
- Nearby Resident
- ✓ Other My road access to my house

Mineral Owner

Observed Incident

**DESCRIPTION OF COMPLAINT** 

(Please be as specific as possible)

Note: Please provide as much detail related to location and issue as possible. Without enough detail, DRMS will not be able to process or investigate the complaint and, therefore, DRMS will have no choice but to discard the complaint.

### Location of Concern \*

Please provide as much detail as possible. It is important to narrow down the location. If available, please include Township, Range and Section, physical address, or GPS location. You may also upload a pdf map below.

Section 26, Township 5 North, Range 73 West of the Sixth Principal Meridian. Larimer Terminals ,Larimer County, Colorado N.W.1/4.S.E.,S.26 T.5N.,R.73W. 6thP.M. Block 2 lot 2. 444Elm Road

Incident County \*

Larimer County

Is this an ongoing issue(s)?

Yes O No

#### Nature of Complaint \*

#### Select all that apply

- Illegal Mining
- □ Ground Water / Water Well Impact
- Surface Water Impact / Stormwater Management
- Mine Plan Compliance
- Signs and Markers
- Financial Warranty
- Processing Waste / Tailings
- Fish / Wildlife
- Off-Site Damage
- Explosives / Blasting
- Revegetation
- Reclamation Plan Compliance

- Dust
- Acid or Toxic Materials/Spills
- Property Damage
- Waste Management / Dumping
- Overburden / Development Waste

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- Backfilling and Grading
- Processing Facilities
- Erosion / Sedimentation
- Roads
- Topsoil
- Weeds
- Other

#### Detailed description of the issue(s) \* (?)

Please provide as much detail as possible. It is important to narrow down the issue(s).

No Drainage plan approved ! Is there a site plan ? Will a safe ELM ROAD BE MAINTAIN ? Will the Reclamation plan / work be restored ?

#### Have you contacted the operator or party conducting the operation? If yes, please provide details. \*

🔾 Yes 💿 No

#### If known, please provide the name of the operator or party conducting the operation.

Nathan Reed (303)918-5513

#### If known, please provide the Permit or NOI Number (ie M-1970-111 or P-1970-111).

Must be entered in the following format: M1970111 or P1970111 (No dashes allowed)

# Have you contacted any other agencies or local governments related to this issue or issues? If so, please provide details. \*

● Yes ○ No

#### Details

Alan Kee, Code Compliance Inspector,Larimer County,Community Development, (970)498-7663 NO plan with county !!

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Are there supporting photos, maps, or documents you wish to upload?\*

🔾 Yes 💿 No

#### What is your preferred method for DRMS to communicate with you throughout the investigation?\*

Select all that apply

Phone E-mail US Mail