

**STATE OF  
COLORADO****Girardi - DNR, Chris** <chris.girardi@state.co.us>

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**Peat Mine M1994081- Corrective Actions Response and Revised Cost Estimate**

1 message

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

Wed, Mar 26, 2025 at 9:04 AM

To: Brandon Garrison &lt;brandongarrison39@gmail.com&gt;

Cc: Marcus Mortensen &lt;mortensenmw@gmail.com&gt;, Jared Ebert - DNR &lt;jared.ebert@state.co.us&gt;

Good morning,

Attached to this email is a pdf of the Division's response to the email dated March 19, 2025 in which the Operator responded to outstanding corrective actions.

Also attached to this email are pdfs of the Division's Revised Cost Estimate and updated Surety Increase (SI-2) as a result of two reclamation tasks being completed.

Hard copies 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

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**3 attachments****InspectionProblemsCorrectiveActions\_PeatMine\_M1994081.pdf**  
352K**SuretyIncrease\_SI2\_3.26.25\_PeatMine\_M1994081.pdf**  
327K**PeatMine\_RevisedCostEstimate\_3.25.25.pdf**  
197K



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

March 26, 2025

Mr. Brandon Garrison  
Mortensen's Landscape & Irrigation  
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 require corrective actions. The Operator submitted documentation of corrective actions on March 19, 2025. The Division has generated the following response:

**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.

**Division Response:** The Operator submitted photo documentation and a figure depicting the location of boundary markers, which are adequate. The Operator also submitted photo documentation of two mine entrance signs. However, the photos are blurry and illegible. Please resubmit photo documentation of the two mine entrance signs.

**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:** Implement 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.

**DIVISION RESPONSE:** The schedule to enact the Weed Management Plan approved through TR-1 is adequate. This inspection problem is considered abated.

### 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.

**Division Response:** Based on the September 2024 inspection, the Division does not concur that only two (2) acres have been affected within Area 1 per the Operator's figure, which divides the permit area into nine (9) 10-acre segments. The Division observed approximately 30 acres of affected area in the form of stripped, stockpiled material throughout Areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 9. The Operator needs to update the current mining plan to account for the current affected areas in each designated 10-acre segment pursuant to C.R.S 34-32.5-112(1)(c)(VI). The Operator stated they intend to continue to mine Area 1 for the next five years. An updated mining plan should contain a schedule for the mining of Areas 1 through 9, taking into account that Areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 9 have already been partially affected. Please submit a TR to update the mining plan with the above-requested provisions through an updated mining plan and mining plan map, along with the required \$216 revision fee pursuant to Rule 1.9.1.

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](mailto:chris.girardi@state.co.us).

Sincerely,



Chris Girardi  
Environmental Protection Specialist Intern

cc: Jared Ebert; DRMS