



Western Water & Land, Inc.

April 8, 2025

Mr. Dustin Czapla
Environmental Protection Specialist
Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety
1313 Sherman Street, Room 215
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Notice of Reclamation Completion: Van 4 Mine Permit No. M-1997-032

Dear Mr. Czapla,

Western Water & Land, Inc. (WWL), on behalf of Pinon Ridge Mining LLC (PRM), is submitting this notice of completion for final reclamation of the Van 4 Mine, Permit no. M-1997-032.

PRM completed reclamation activities in accordance with those described within Technical Revision No. 1 dated February 5, 2025. The TR described shaft closure design, site grading, topsoil placement, and revegetation methods. Final reclamation was completed on February 26th, 2025.

Please note the following operator and land owner information:

Operator Information

Pinon Ridge Mining LLC
31525 Highway 90
P.O. Box 825
Nucla, CO 81424
Phone: 970-864-2127
Point of contact: Mike Rutter, Chief of Operations

Land Owner Information:

U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Uncompahgre Field Office
2465 S. Townsend Ave.
Montrose, CO 81401
Phone: (970) 240-5333
Point of contact: Vincent Beresford, Geologist

Figure 1 is the mine location map and Figure 2 shows the main mine operations area and original reclamation grading plan. DRMS records indicate that the Van 4 Mine permitted area is 8.4 acres. The existing Vent Shaft, located 0.25 miles to the east, was estimated to involve 0.5 acres of disturbance, but field inspections showed this area to be closer to 0.1 acres. The access road to the Vent Shaft was an existing publicly used overland track prior to construction of the vent shaft and is not part of the reclamation plan. A second proposed vent shaft to be located further to the east was never constructed.

PRM began reclamation in March 2020 by removing siding from buildings onsite. Later, the hoist headframe was removed along with all other buildings. On January 13, 2025, PRM began final reclamation work that included fragmentation of former building concrete foundations and dismantling of remaining hoist equipment; this material was salvaged and transported offsite to property owned by PRM.

Regrading of the waste rock area also began on January 13th. Regrading of the affected land initially focused on the waste rock area where terminal slopes were regraded to slopes equal to or gentler than three feet horizontal to one-foot vertical (3 to 1). The reclamation plan specified that the historical shallow runoff swale at the west and south toe of the waste rock area remain in place.

By early February, most regrading work was completed and topsoil placement was underway. Topsoil was burrowed from the large onsite topsoil storage area and spread over the affected area at minimum depths of 6-inches. The topsoil storage area contained an adequate volume of material to cover all affected acreage.

Shaft cap closure was conducted on February 13th, 2025. Both the Production Shaft and Vent Shaft locations were sealed as specified in the closure design presented in TR No. 1. The design allowed in-place cap construction directly on top of the concrete shaft collars which were measured to be least 2-feet thick. Shaft cap construction specifications followed DRMS-approved Standard Drawing No. 3 – Concrete Shaft Closure. Topsoil cover at the shaft locations was constructed to be a minimum of four-feet thick.

After shaft closure, regrading of the mine operations area continued. Areas on top of the waste rock area and in the mine operations area were ripped (scarified) to a depth of approximately one-foot. Topsoiling followed this work. Shaft topsoil mounds were constructed to appear somewhat asymmetrical with one horizontal dimension being longer than the other.

Revegetation work began on February 24 and was completed on February 26th. Revegetation work was conducted by Horizon Environmental, based in Durango, Colorado. A high percentage of the seeding work was conducted using a drill seeding method. Broadcast seeding method was used at the shaft areas and few other small areas. Certified weed-free straw was applied with a power mulch spreader at a rate of 2,000 pounds per acre. A crimping implement was used to crimp the straw into the topsoil. Please see TR No. 1 for the reclamation seed mix as specified by the U.S. BLM.

PRM elected to install reclamation fencing around the reclaimed area; the fencing was completed on March 24th, 2025. PRM has engaged a weed management contractor to monitor and implement a weed management program for the reclaimed area. An application for a Pesticide Use Permit has been submitted to the U.S. BLM for approval.

Please see Attachment A for selected photographs of the reclamation work.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at 970-242-0170.

Sincerely,

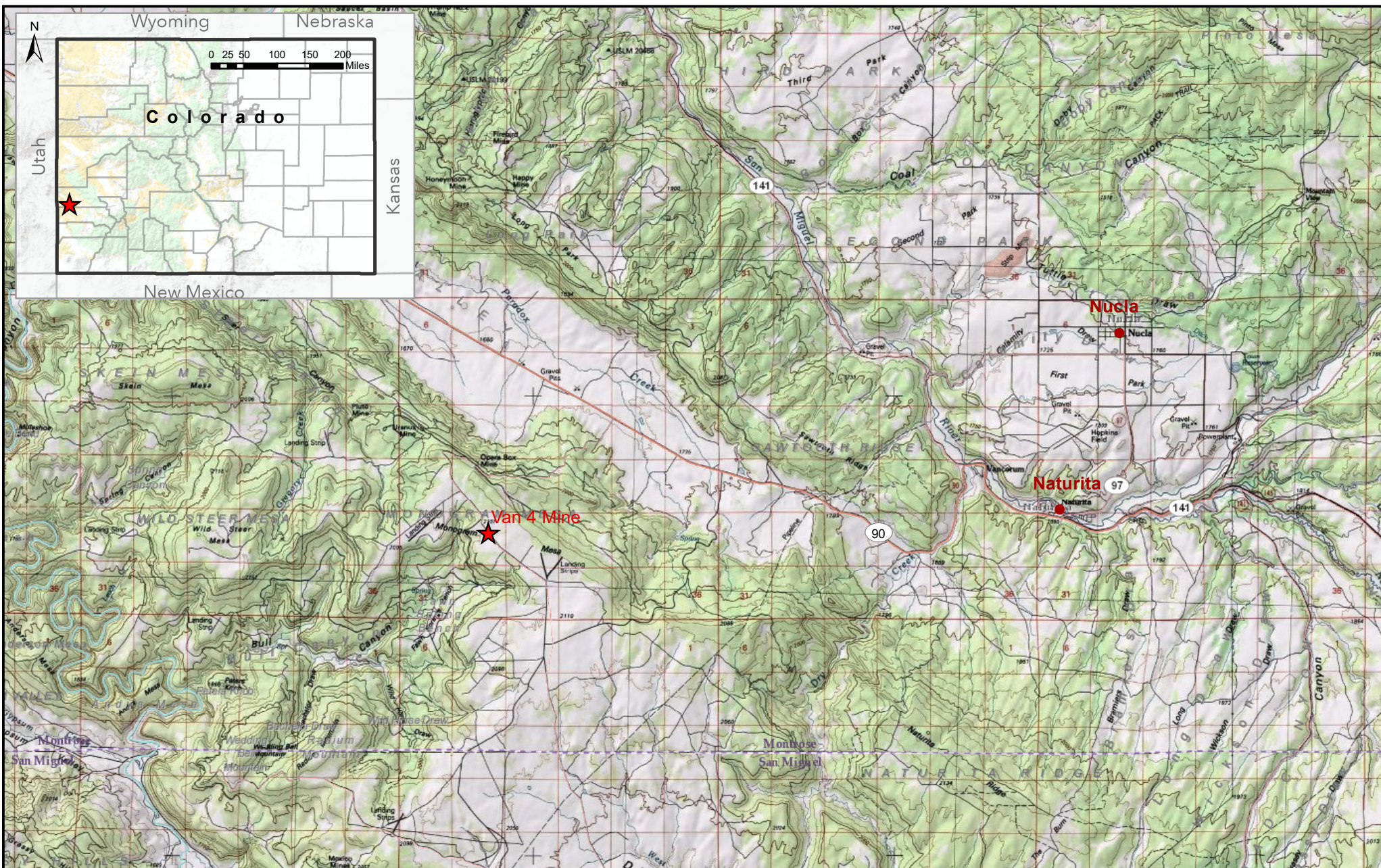
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce D. Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bruce" being more legible than the last name "Smith".

Bruce D. Smith, P.G.

Principal

WESTERN WATER & LAND, INC.

cc: George Glasier, President, Pinon Ridge Mining LLC
Mike Rutter, Vice President, Pinon Ridge Mining LLC
Vincent Beresford, Geologist, U.S. BLM Uncompahgre Field Office



Legend

- ★ Mine Location
- Town

Service Layer Credits: Copyright:© 2013 National Geographic Society, i-cubed
Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA
Sources: Esri, Garmin, USGS, NPS

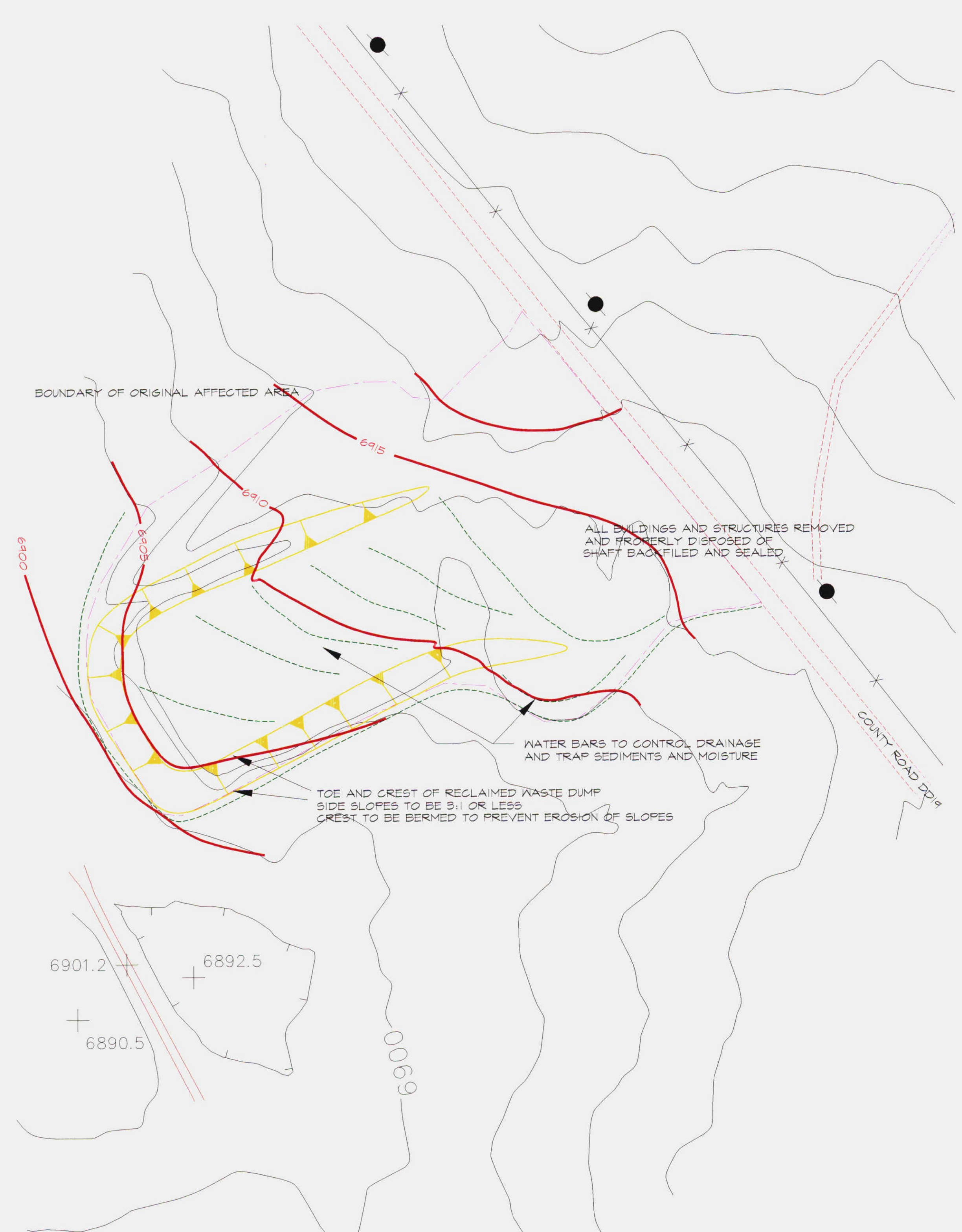
0 1.25 2.5 5 7.5 10 Miles



Figure 1. Van 4 Mine Location Map
Pinon Ridge Mining LLC

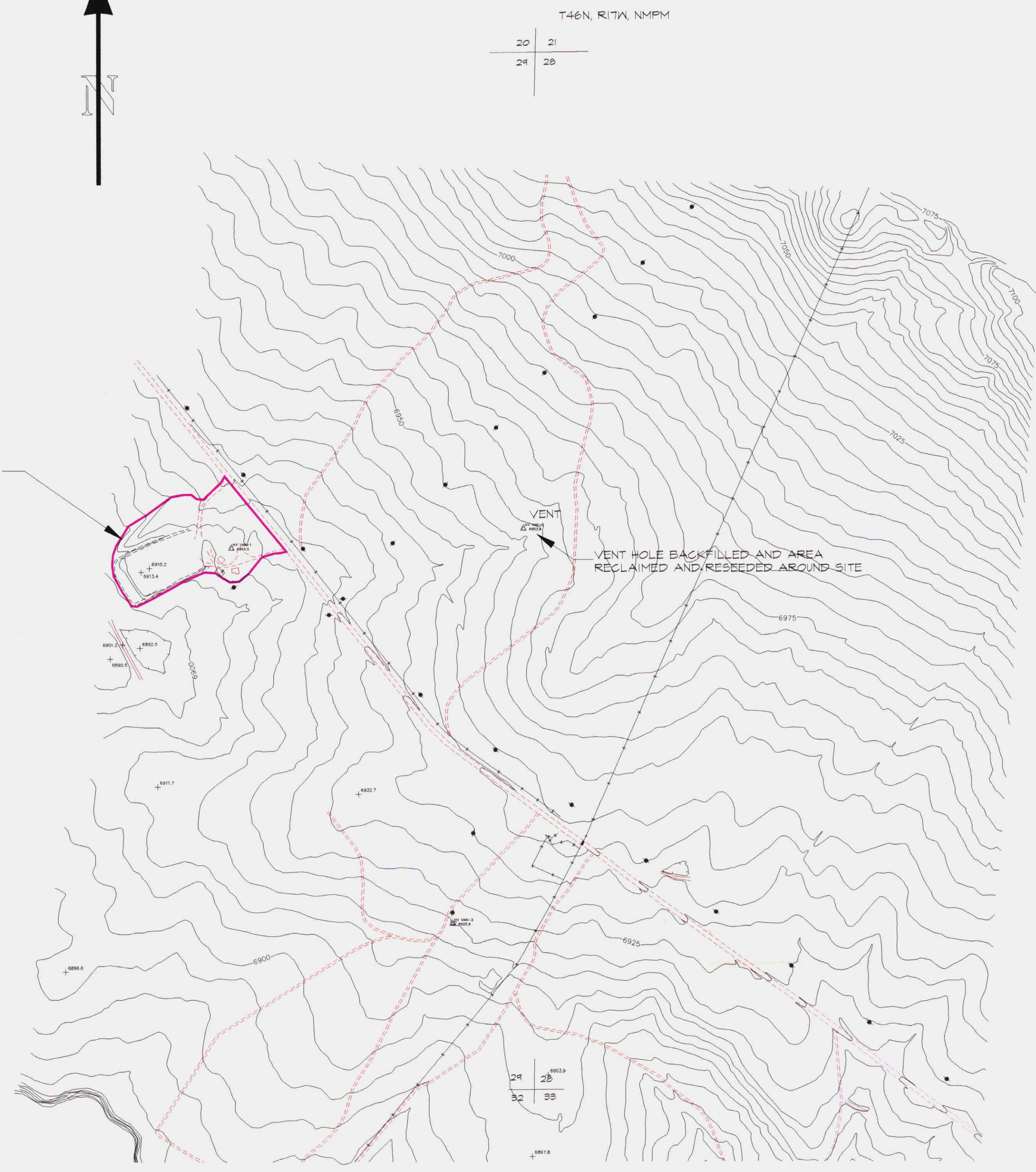


Western Water & Land, Inc.



GRADING PLAN FOR SHAFT SITE
Scale 1" = 100 feet
Contour Interval = 5 feet

THIS AREA RECLAIMED AS SHOWN TO THE LEFT



ATTACHMENT A

Site Photographs

ATTACHMENT A – PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1. Prereclamation top of waste rock area with natural vegetation.



Photo 2. Prereclamation terminal slope of waste rock area with runoff swale at toe.

ATTACHMENT A – PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 3. Prereclamation Vent Shaft.



Photo 4. Prereclamation Production Shaft and pad.

ATTACHMENT A – PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 5. Steel beam structural cap and form at Production Shaft.



Photo 6. Steel beam structural cap and form at Vent Shaft.

ATTACHMENT A – PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 7. Production Shaft identification plate on cap cover.



Photo 8. Cement pour at Vent Shaft cap cover.

ATTACHMENT A – PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 11. Topsoil cover at waste rock area.



Photo 12. Crimped certified weed-free straw at waste rock area.