



July 18, 2025

Eileen Dornfest  
Larimer County  
6994 Rickenbacker Rd  
Loveland, CO 80538

**RE: Larimer County Test Pits, Reference No. M-2025-035**  
**“Is It Mining?” Questionnaire, Additional Information Required**

Ms. Dornfest:

On July 14, 2025, the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (DRMS) received your “Is It Mining?” questionnaire regarding a proposed exploratory test pit operation to search for alluvial gravel deposits on a ridge top located on the Steinhoff Hill State Land Board (SLB) parcel in Larimer County.

A backhoe excavator will be used to excavate the test pits. No material will be processed on site. Some representative material will be sampled in 5-gallon buckets and a total of less than one cubic yard of this material will be taken off site and submitted to a laboratory for geotechnical testing and material characterization. The remainder of the material excavated from the test pits will be used to backfill the pits for reclamation.

The approximate areal extent of the proposed extraction is less than one acre. The test pits will be approximately 15 feet in depth. The landowner (SLB) or mine site operator will not receive any type of compensation from the proposed material extraction. The county will obtain a Solid Minerals Planning and Exploration Lease from the SLB prior to initiating these activities. The post-mining land use of the site will be hunting and grazing, which are the current land uses.

In order for DRMS to make a determination as to whether a Mined Land Reclamation Permit or a Notice of Intent is required for your proposed project, the following additional information is needed:

- 1) Please submit a site map that clearly shows the location of the proposed extraction site and the nearest city, town, and county location name, as requested under Item #1 of the questionnaire. Please also show on this map the roads that will be used or created to access the extraction site. (This map can be in the form of a Google Earth image or a USGS topographic map of the site with the requested features added.)
- 2) Under Item #8 of the questionnaire, you estimate the approximate areal extent of the proposed extraction to be less than one acre. Please provide the approximate number and surface dimensions of the proposed test pits. You can provide ranges if needed.



Please include "Reference No. M-2025-035" on any future correspondence or submittals for this site. Your response to this letter can be submitted directly to me via the email address provided below.

If you have any questions, you may contact me by telephone at 303-945-9014 or by email at [amy.eschberger@state.co.us](mailto:amy.eschberger@state.co.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amy Eschberger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A".

Amy Eschberger  
Senior Environmental Protection Specialist

Cc: Joel Renfro, DRMS  
Russ Means, DRMS