

**STATE OF
COLORADO**

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M2018057, Old Town Reclamation Project, July 2025 Inspection Report

1 message

Simmons - DNR, Leigh <leigh.simmons@state.co.us>

Tue, Jul 22, 2025 at 10:11 AM

To: Mason Drake <mason.drake@venturegoldusa.com>, PATRICK MAHER <mptmaher@msn.com>

Please find attached an inspection report from an inspection I conducted at the Old Town Reclamation Project site on Friday. Let me know if you have any questions.

Leigh Simmons
Environmental Protection Specialist



COLORADO
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Mining and Safety
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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: Old Town Reclamation Project	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-2018-057	MINERAL: Silver, gold, lead, zinc	COUNTY: Gilpin
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	WEATHER: Clear	INSP. DATE: July 18, 2025	INSP. TIME: 09:00
OPERATOR: Venture Resources, Inc.	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: N/A	TYPE OF OPERATION: 110d - Designated Limited Impact	
REASON FOR INSPECTION: Citizen Complaint	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: None	BOND AMOUNT: \$24,387.00	
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None	
INSPECTOR(S): Leigh Simmons	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: July 22, 2025	

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>Y</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>N</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>N</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>Y</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>Y</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>Y</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>Y</u>	(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

On Thursday July 17, 2025 the Division received a complaint by phone from a local resident who does not wish to be identified. The complainant stated that there was an open water cistern on the Old Town Reclamation Project property in which baby moose had drowned on two separate occasions. The complainant described the approximate location of the cistern, and later shared by text message several photographs (see figures 1-4).

The complaint was shared with the operator who asserted that the cistern was not within the permit area. On Friday July 18, 2025, Leigh Simmons of the Division conducted an inspection of the site. The approximate permit area boundary had previously been digitized from georeferenced maps, and is shown on the field map in figure 5 in purple.

In the field, locations of the staked corners of the permit area were recorded using the Esri Field Maps app, running on an iPhone 14. (Each point was recorded as the average of 10 locations, when the GPS location accuracy met a threshold of 20ft.) The points are shown in green on figure 5 and are joined to make a green polygon. The locations of other features noted during the inspection were also recorded and are labelled. The site was accessed by a driveway from Pewabic Mine Road (AKA Druid Mine Road). Approximately 300ft down the driveway was a gate, with a mine ID sign. From this point it was approximately another 220ft to the edge of the permit area. On the right side of the driveway was what appeared to be historic mine-related debris (broken timbers, concrete foundations, old pipe and an open metal tank/cistern with water in it (point 644).

Although the accuracy of points recorded in the field is limited by the accuracy of a cell phone GPS receiver, and the staked boundary does not coincide perfectly with the boundary digitized from maps, it is clear that the location of the open cistern is outside of the permit area by 40-60ft. However, the location of the gate and Mine ID sign would suggest to a visitor that the land past the gate is associated with mine permit M-2018-057 and is the responsibility of Venture Resources Inc.

The Division does not have jurisdiction over the cistern, or the land that it is located on. Furthermore, the Division does not engage in issues related to property ownership. Nevertheless, if the cistern is determined to be on land owned or in any way controlled by Venture Resources Inc. it would be advisable to contact the Division of Water Resources (which regulates cisterns in Colorado) and Gilpin County, to seek advice on applicable regulations and guidelines for abandonment or hazard mitigation.

MAPS & PHOTOGRAPHS



Figure 1: Complaint photo (1 of 4)



Figure 2: Complaint photo (2 of 4)



Figure 3: Complaint photo (3 of 4)



Figure 4: Complaint photo (4 of 4)



Figure 5: Screenshot of field map used during inspection



Figure 6: Point 644, outside permit area (1 of 3)



Figure 7: Point 644, outside permit area (2 of 3)



Figure 8: Point 644, outside permit area (3 of 3)



Figure 9: Historic mine disturbance within permit area, north of point 646 (1 of 3)



Figure 10: Historic mine disturbance within permit area, north of point 646 (2 of 3)



Figure 11: Historic mine disturbance within permit area, north of point 646 (3 of 3)



Figure 12: Survey stake needs replacing, point 647 (1 of 2)



Figure 13: Survey stake needs replacing, point 647 (2 of 2)



Figure 14: Historic shaft opening, point 650 (1 of 2)



Figure 15: Historic shaft opening, point 650 (2 of 2)



Figure 16: Solar panels inside permit area, point 656



Figure 17: Gate across driveway, point 657



Figure 18: Mine ID sign, point 657