



COLORADO

Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety


Department of Natural Resources

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: North Fork Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-2004-025	MINERAL: Sand and gravel	COUNTY: Delta
INSPECTION TYPE: Surety-Related Inspection	WEATHER: Clear	INSP. DATE: July 23, 2025	INSP. TIME: 14:45
OPERATOR: Farnsworth Construction and Gravel Compan	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Patricia and Cecil Farnsworth	TYPE OF OPERATION: 110c - Construction Limited Impact	

REASON FOR INSPECTION: Surety Related	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: None	BOND AMOUNT: \$22,212.00
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None
INSPECTOR(S): Robert Zuber, P.E.	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: July 31, 2025

The following inspection topics were identified as having Problems or Possible Violations. OPERATORS SHOULD READ THE FOLLOWING PAGES CAREFULLY IN ORDER TO ASSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE PERMIT AND APPLICABLE RULES AND REGULATIONS. If a Possible Violation is indicated, you will be notified under separate cover as to when the Mined Land Reclamation Board will consider possible enforcement action.

INSPECTION TOPIC: Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION: Problem: The current mine plan and other permit exhibits need 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, with the required \$216 revision fee, to update and clarify the currently approved permit exhibits to reflect existing and proposed activities by the corrective action date.

CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE: 9/30/25

BACKGROUND

The North Fork Pit (M-2004-025) is a 110C permit for 9.97 acres, located approximately one mile southwest of Paonia, Colorado, off Hayden Road. All the permit area is owned by Patricia and Cecil Farnsworth, who are the owners of Farnsworth Construction and Gravel Company, the permittee. The post-mining land use (PMLU) for the site is wildlife habitat.

This inspection was performed for two reasons. An Acreage Reduction application, AR-01, was received June 2, 2025, and found complete on July 3, 2025. The application requests the release of 1.52 acres of unmined land from the permit area. Please see Map 1 attached to this report, which shows the permit boundary and the area that is the subject of AR-01. To satisfy the requirements of the acreage reduction process (Rule 4.17.2), Rob Zuber with the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) inspected the site within 60 days of the application submittal. The Division intends to make a proposed decision to approve the AR-01 application (observations discussed below). No objections or comments were received. After the approval date, the Division must wait 30 days for the appeal period to end before the approval will be finalized.

The second reason for the inspection was for routine monitoring. The last inspection was in November of 2020, and the frequency of inspections for this site is 48 months.

OBSERVATIONS

The inspection was performed on the afternoon of July 23, 2025. In addition to the Division inspector, Patricia and Cecil Farnsworth were present. The weather during the inspection was hot with some clouds present in the area. The ground was dry.

The entrance sign was clearly visible on the gated entrance, and it was large enough and contained the necessary information, per Rule 3.1.12. The permit boundary was generally marked well with posts, a fence, and a berm. The acreage reduction portion of the site was not marked, but the use of technology (the map from the application on a cell phone, using the application Field Maps) sufficed to delineate this portion from surrounding areas.

The small portion of the site that is the subject of AR-01 has not been disturbed for mining activities, based on observations during the inspection and based on a review of past aerial photographs in Google Earth. The site includes some grasses and forbs as well as four large trees.

The following additional observations were made for the rest of the permit area.

There are three ponds on site, as shown on Map 2 attached to this report. All of the banks of these ponds are well graded. The west side of the large pond has been worked recently, according to Mr. Farnsworth. A rock and soil berm remains along this side of the large pond. Mr. Farnsworth indicated that future mining will likely take place in this area.

The bridge across the river has not been installed. The metal superstructure and the concrete supports are stored off the permit boundary.

No ditches or other surface water control structures (other than the three ponds) were seen. No pumps were in use at the site. There is no indication that the site is causing offsite impacts to surface water hydrology, and ditches and pumps are not currently needed. However, water control structures and/or pumps may be needed in the future as mining progresses.

Two large topsoil piles were observed. The one on the east side of the site is approximately 350 feet long, 30 to 40 feet wide, and 8 feet high. The one west of the AR-01 area is approximately a cone that is 100 feet in diameter and 30 feet high. It appears that there is more than enough soil to complete reclamation at the site.

Along the riverside of the permit area (north side), the large boulders for bank protection appear to be stable. This riprap runs along most of the north side of the site.

A dead thistle plant shows evidence of spraying. No other weeds were seen at the site, including the AR-01 area.

A Technical Revision (TR) is required to update the permit exhibit maps in Exhibit E showing the permit boundary, since AR-01 will reduce this area. Additional updates to permit exhibits are also required:

- The Mining Plan, Exhibit C, should be updated to reflect the current conditions and any changes to the plan since it was last written. It should include estimates of applicable lengths, depths, and volumes for additional mining that will be performed. It should reflect any changes to site conditions such the removal of the cable television line. Topsoil stockpiles should be discussed, including the sizes of piles and practices for saving this resource, including temporary seeding and sediment control.
- The TR should also include revisions to the Reclamation Plan, Exhibit D, as necessary, to reflect any changes to the reclamation plan for this permit.
- In the Map exhibit, Exhibit E, the current status of the ponds and other site features should be shown on the Mining Plan map, and any revisions to the reclamation plan should be shown on the Reclamation Plan map.
- The status of discussions with the USACE regarding the bridge should be included in the List of Other Permits and Licenses Required, Exhibit F.

The operator should consult Rule 6.3 for detailed requirements for these exhibits.

The reclamation cost estimate for this site will be updated during the process of reviewing the Technical Revision.

Photographs taken during the inspection are attached.

Please contact Rob Zuber with comments or questions at 720-601-2276 or rob.zuber@state.co.us.

PHOTOGRAPHS



AR-01 area, looking north, with large trees (mentioned in text) on the right



Topsoil stockpile west of AR-01 area



North Fork of the Gunnison River where bridge may be constructed in the future



Riprap on riverbank



Permit boundary marker on north side of site



East side of large pond, with large topsoil stockpile on the left



North side of large pond



Small pond on north side



Pond on west side of site



West side of large pond

GENERAL INSPECTION TOPICS

The following list identifies the environmental and permit parameters inspected and gives a categorical evaluation of each

(AR) RECORDS----- <u>N</u>	(FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY----- <u>N</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>Y</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>Y</u>	(BG) BACKFILL & GRADING----- <u>Y</u>	(EX) EXPLOSIVES----- <u>N</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- <u>NA</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>NA</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>Y</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>PB</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>N</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>NA</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>Y</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>NA</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>Y</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>N</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>Y</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>NA</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>NA</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

Inspection Contact Address

Patricia and Cecil Farnsworth
Farnsworth Construction and Gravel Company
175 Hwy 133
Paonia, CO 81428

Enclosure (Maps)

CC: Amy Eschberger, DRMS

IN STREAM GRAVEL PIT

RIVER

WETLANDS & RIVER CHANNEL

DEPRESSION WETLAND 0.17 ACRES

OVERHEAD CABLE TV LINE

DUG AREA UNUSABLE

DRAINAGE ALFA SA

FANNSWORTH SCHOOL MUD PIT

POND

COTTONWOOD

FRUIT ORCHARD

RECREATION

RESIDENCE

COUNTY SHOP

BETA MONITOR ELECTRIC CABLE POWER

NE 1/4 of the SE 1/4

5



Map 2 – Features Noted During Inspection
(Note that aerial photo is from 2024)

