




**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.

<b>MINE NAME:</b> Ellison Pit	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1978-170	<b>MINERAL:</b> Sand and gravel	<b>COUNTY:</b> Delta
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>WEATHER:</b> Cloudy	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> July 23, 2025	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 07:40
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Delta County	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Timothy Hunter, Anthony Hunter, Hunter Voss	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 112c - Construction Regular Operation	

<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Normal I&E Program	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> None	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$0.00
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> None	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None
<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Robert Zuber, P.E.	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> August 6, 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 permit maps (and other applicable exhibits) need to be updated and clarified pursuant to Rule 6.4. The operator must clearly show the current permit boundary and assure that all permit exhibits are accurate and current.

**CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:** The operator shall submit a Technical Revision, with the required \$216 revision fee, to update and clarify the permit maps (Exhibits C and F) and other permit exhibits.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE:** 11/07/25

**INSPECTION TOPIC:** Revegetation

**PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION:** Problem: There are state-listed noxious weeds present on site, primarily halogeton. 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. If a weed control plan is not already in place, the operator shall develop a weed control and management plan in accordance with Section 3.1.10 (6) of the Rule. This plan should be developed in consultation with the county extension agency, or weed control district office and should include specific control measures to be applied, a schedule for when control measures will be applied and a post-treatment monitoring plan. This weed control plan shall be submitted to the Division as a Technical Revision to the approved plan with the appropriate Technical Revision fee of \$216.00 by the corrective action date.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE:** 10/17/25

**INSPECTION TOPIC:** Signs & Markers

**PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION:** Problem: The affected area boundary markers were not observed in some areas, namely the east side of the site and near the asphalt plant. These need to be added per the requirements of Rule 3.1.12.

**CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:** The boundaries of the affected area must be marked by monuments or other markers that are clearly visible and adequate to delineate such boundaries. These must be present along the entire affected area boundary. Near the asphalt plant, boundaries may be problematic, and the Division will consider alternative options.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE:** 9/26/25

## **OBSERVATIONS**

The Ellison Pit (M-1978-170) is a 112C permit for 148 acres (80 acres maximum affected area), located approximately three miles east of Delta, Colorado, off G Road. All the permit area is owned by Delta County, the permittee. The post-mining land use (PMLU) for the site is wildlife habitat.

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

The inspection was performed the morning of July 23, 2025. In addition to the Division inspector, Timothy Hunter, Anthony Hunter, and Hunter Voss were present. All three men are Delta County employees. The weather during the inspection was warm and partly cloudy. The ground was dry.

The entrance sign was clearly visible at the entrance, and it was large enough and contained the necessary information, per Rule 3.1.12(1). The affected boundary was generally marked well with posts, fencing, and berms (as required by Rule 3.1.12(2)). However, there are some areas that require additional markers. One area needing more markers is the east side of the site. Another area is near the asphalt plant (which is not in the permit area). This second area requires some discussion between the Division and the County, because placing markers at this boundary could be problematic, since it is in the middle of a road. The Division would like to discuss the options for marking this area, such as markers with a stated offset (any use of alternative markers should be stated in the Mining Plan).

The site included a mining area near the southwest corner (the County was not actively mining at the time of the inspection), equipment storage in the northeast portion of the site, product piles, and piles of concrete rubble. The processing equipment had been moved offsite, apparently to the Whiting site, approximately one mile northeast.

No ditches or other surface water control structures were seen. The grading of the site and berms are preventing runoff to surrounding areas. There is no indication that the site is causing offsite impacts to surface water hydrology.

There is no indication that the mining operation intercepts groundwater. The site appears to be well above the groundwater table.

The locations of topsoil stockpiles were not clear. This needs to be clarified in the Technical Revision, discussed below.

The primary weed issue that was identified was the presence of halogeton around the site, especially near the pit and along the east and south sides of the site. Halogeton is a listed noxious species in Colorado and should be controlled by the County.

A Technical Revision (TR) is required to update permit exhibits. It appears to the Division that currently approved exhibits were not updated with past permitting actions, and they do not accurately represent current conditions. For example, the Mining and Reclamation Maps need to reflect the change to the permit

boundary from the acreage reduction action in 1999. At the very least, it appears that the following need to be updated:

- Exhibit C, Mining Plan Map (including topsoil stockpiles as noted above)
- Exhibit D, Mining Plan
- Exhibit E, Reclamation Plan
- Exhibit F, Reclamation Plan Map

The operator should consult Rule 6.4 for detailed requirements for these exhibits.

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](mailto:rob.zuber@state.co.us).

## **PHOTOGRAPHS**



**Affected area boundary, looking southwest from northwest corner of site**



**Berm at northeast corner of site**





**East end of site, looking south – affected area markers missing**



**South end of site, looking west – affected area markers visible**



**Mining area with halogeton**



**Southwest part of site – disturbance does not appear to be mining related**

### GENERAL INSPECTION TOPICS

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

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

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