




**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> Lava Mine	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-2025-040	<b>MINERAL:</b> NA	<b>COUNTY:</b> Conejos
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Possible Illegal(Unpermitted Operation)	<b>WEATHER:</b> Clear	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> August 25, 2025	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 13:00
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Red Hill Lava Products, Inc.	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Brandon Happel	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> Processing Facility	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Citizen Complaint	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> None	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> NA	
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> None	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None	
<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Chris Girardi	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> September 9, 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>N</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>N</u>	(BG) BACKFILL & GRADING----- <u>N</u>	(EX) EXPLOSIVES----- <u>N</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- <u>N</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>N</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>N</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>N</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>N</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>N</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>N</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>N</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>N</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>N</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>N</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>N</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>N</u>	(OD) OFF-SITE DAMAGE----- <u>N</u>	

Y = Inspected / N = Not inspected / NA = Not applicable to this operation / PB = Problem cited / PV = Possible violation cited

## **OBSERVATIONS**

On August 25, 2025, Chris Girardi of the Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety ("DRMS" or "Division") conducted an inspection of the subject property after receiving an inquiry requesting if a mining permit was associated with the property located at the address of 4000 US Hwy 285, Antonito, CO 81120. Upon further, the DRMS concluded the property did not have a reclamation permit. Upon review of the property on the Conejos County Parcel search, the DRMS identified the company Red Hill Lava Products, Inc. (Red Hill) as the property owner. The DRMS reached out to Red Hill via their website and scheduled an inspection. Brandon Happel represented Red Hill Lava Products, Inc. during the inspection.

The property is located along the southern edge of Antonito, CO. The property contained several stockpiles of red and black-colored volcanic material, a processing plant, a hopper feeder, a small office building, an equipment area, a garage building with a vehicle loading setup, and a wheel loader (see Photos 1-5). The loader was actively moving material during the inspection. The DRMS did not observe evidence of an excavation, or any open-pit mining.

According to Mr. Happel, material is imported from an active mine in New Mexico. The Colorado property is a processing and bulk transport center for volcanic materials. Upon review of Red Hill's website, the New Mexico address was obtained. Google Earth Imagery of the New Mexico location shows evidence earthwork activities with red material similar to the material stockpiled at the Colorado property.

Based on the Division's field observations, a reclamation permit will not need to be obtained by Red Hill Lava Products, Inc., for the subject property at this time. Material is brought to the property, where it is processed and eventually sold, which does not meet the definition of a mining operation in accordance with Rule 1.1(30). If Red Hill Lava Products, Inc., intends to excavate native material from the site to sell and/or transport off-site, then a reclamation permit would need to be obtained.

Photographs taken during the inspection are attached. If you need additional information or have any questions, please contact me at the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203, by telephone at (720) 793-3041, or by email at [chris.girardi@state.co.us](mailto:chris.girardi@state.co.us).

**PHOTOGRAPHS**



Photo 1: Entrance sign leading to the property, along with stockpiles of material, a wheel loader, and pallets.



Photo 2: View of the processing area with stockpiles of red volcanic material.





Photo 3: Stockpiles of material and a hopper feeder, facing east.



Photo 4: More stockpiles of red and black-colored material, and an equipment yard, facing southeast.



Photo 5: View of the loading garage, wheel loader, and a conveyer.

**Inspection Contact Address**

Brandon Happel  
Red Hill Lava Products, Inc.  
4000 US Hwy 285  
Antonito, CO 81120

CC:  
Jared Ebert, DRMS