

# Final Reclamation Inspection

February 11, 2026

Operator: RITCHIE EXPLORATION INC

Location ID: 313860

Inspection Document #: 720300150

Morgan County, CO

Isaac Thibedeau  
Reclamation Specialist, ECMC



**COLORADO**

**Energy & Carbon Management  
Commission**

Department of Natural Resources

## Inspection Photos

Location Name: MERINO STATE-66N55W 36S2SE

Location ID: 313860



**Photo 1.** Photo taken from access road facing East of location facing North. showing evidence of road and bare soil with some desirable bunch grass growing. Acces road goes from the tank battery location through Merino-State 1 (API 087-06775) to Merino State 3 (API 087-07205)

**Photo 2.** Photo taken from access road east of location facing Northeast. See comment under photo 1.



**COLORADO**  
Energy & Carbon Management  
Commission  
Department of Natural Resources

Inspection Number: 720300150

## Inspection Photos

Location Name: MERINO STATE-66N55W 36S2SE

Location ID: 313860



**Photo 3.** Photo taken from the location facing north. Showing an overview of location with growth of desirable native grass growth.



**Photo 4.** Photo taken from the location facing east. Showing an overview of location showing some bare areas and growth of desirable native grass growth.



Inspection Photos

Location Name: MERINO STATE-66N55W 36S2SE

Location ID: 313860



**Photo 5.** Photo taken from the center of the location facing north. See comment under Photo 1.



**Photo 6.** Photo taken from center of location facing east. See comment under Photo 2.



Inspection Photos

Location Name: MERINO STATE-66N55W 36S2SE

Location ID: 313860



**Photo 7.** Photo taken from of the location. See comment in photo 1.



**Photo 8.** Photo taken from of the center of location showing growth of native grass species and presents of bare soil.



## Inspection Photos

Location Name: MERINO STATE-66N55W 36S2SE

Location ID: 313860



**Photo 9.** Photo taken from east side of location facing north east. Showing desirable vegetation growth as well as areas of bare soil and some evidence of erosion.



**Photo 10.** Photo taken from east side of location facing east. Showing evidence of erosion and bare soil and erosion.



Inspection Photos

Location Name: MERINO STATE-66N55W 36S2SE

Location ID: 313860



**Photo 11.** Photo taken from south side of location. Showing reference area with desirable native grass and shrub species.





**Photo 12.** Historical satellite imagery of the three wells, tank battery and pit complex provided by operator consultant.

Inspection Number: 720300150

## Inspection Photos

Location Name:MERINO STATE-66N55W 36S2SE

Location ID: 313860



**Photo 13.** Photo taken from top of pit and facility location on the north edge of location facing south. Area where photo was taken is where the historical tank battery was for the location. Location showing bare areas between bunchgrass and stunted vegetation. A compaction test was performed and indicates that area was not decompacted properly and is contributing to the bare areas present.

**Photo 14.** Photo taken from the north edge of pit location facing southwest, showing bare areas and stunted vegetation.



**COLORADO**  
Energy & Carbon Management  
Commission  
Department of Natural Resources

Inspection Number: 720300150

## Inspection Photos

Location Name:MERINO STATE-66N55W 36S2SE

Location ID: 313860



**Photo 15.** Photo taken from east edge of pit location between the first and second pit location. There were four pits at this location. Vegetation is matted down indicating sheet flow of water has run down area and off the location to the east. Area to the southeast was previously identified as a potential salt kill area but looks to have good vegetation establishment.



**Photo 16.** Photo taken from the eastern edge of pit location, between second and third pit facing south showing matted vegetation

## Inspection Photos

Location Name:MERINO STATE-66N55W 36S2SE

Location ID: 313860



**Photo 17.** Photo taken from area were pits where located and are associated with this location showing bare areas and stunted vegetation growth.



**Photo 18.** Photo taken from the edge of were pits where located looking back at area where pits were located that where associated with this location. Showing bare areas and stunted vegetation.



## Inspection Photos

Location Name:MERINO STATE-66N55W 36S2SE

Location ID: 313860



**Photo 19.** Photo taken from where tank battery showing bare areas and growth of some desirable grasses. Compaction test was performed and area has compaction issues between bunchgrass.



**Photo 20.** Photo taken from the northern edge of were pits and production facility was located facing south at area where pits were located that where associated with this location. Showing bare areas and stunted vegetation. Vegetation is desirable however the bare areas between vegetation has compaction issues.

Inspection Photos

Location Name:MERINO STATE-66N55W 36S2SE

Location ID: 313860



**Photo 21.** Photo taken from the southern end of were pits where located showing a potential salt kill area with no vegetation present.



**Photo 22.** Photo taken from the edge of were pits where located. Showing bare areas and stunted vegetation.



## Inspection Photos

Location Name: MERINO STATE-66N55W 36S2SE

Location ID: 313860



**Photo 23.** Photo taken from area were pits where located and are associated with this location showing potential salt kill area.



**Photo 24.** Photo taken from the southern edge of were pits where located. Showing potential salt kill areas and stunted vegetation.



## Access Roads at Merino State 3 Lease Operated by Ritchie Exploration

---

**From :** Freese - DNR, Steve <steve.freese@state.co.us>

Tue, Nov 25, 2014 09:39 AM

**Subject :** Access Roads at Merino State 3 Lease Operated by Ritchie Exploration

**To :** dknicholson@q.com

**Cc :** Matthew Pollart - DNR <matthew.pollart@state.co.us>

External images are not displayed. [Display images below](#)

---

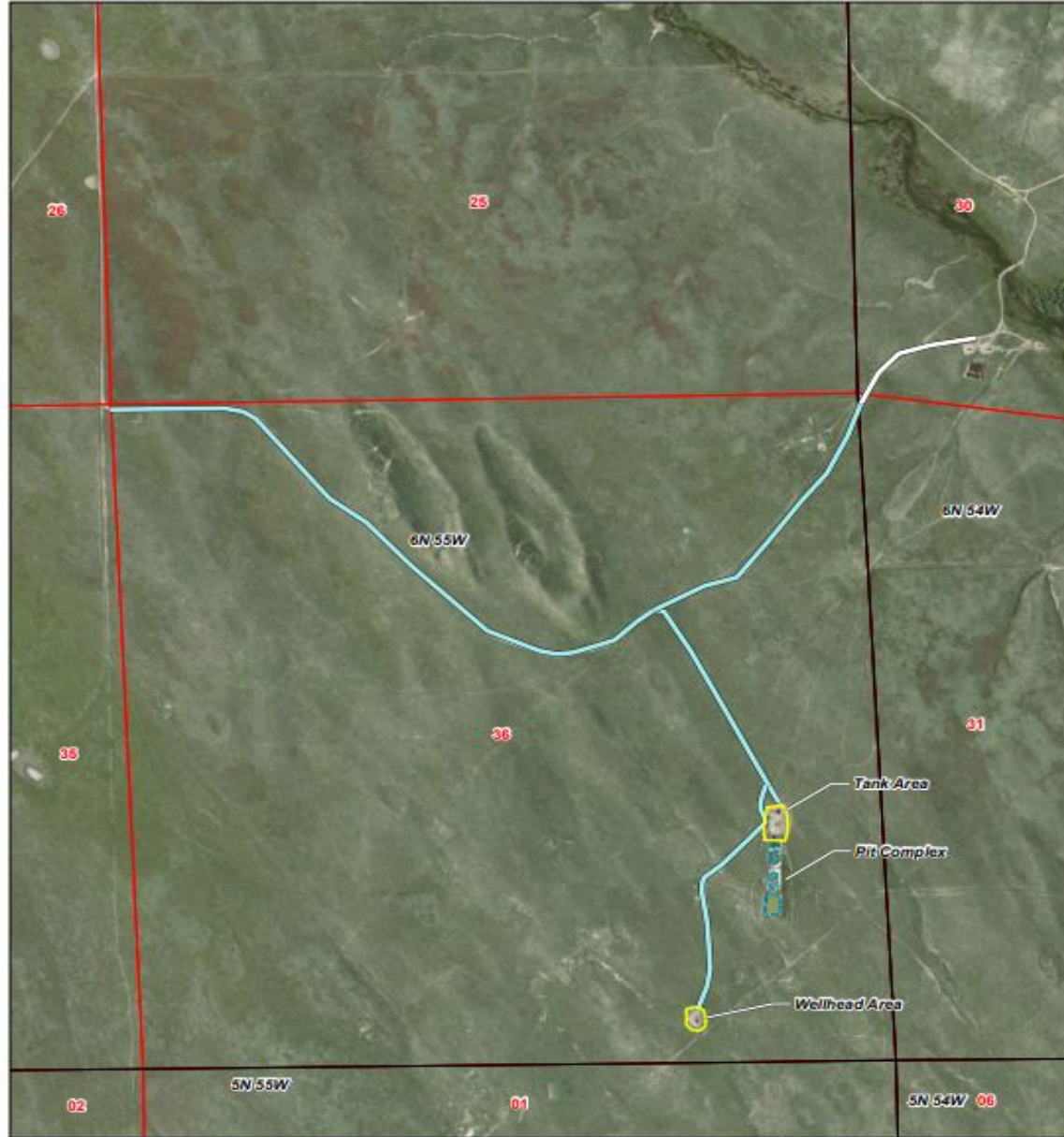
Dave,

A field visit with the surface tenant was conducted and it has been decided that all of the access roads on Section 36 need to be reclaimed. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact myself or Matt Pollart.

Thank you,

**Steve Freese**  
Minerals Field Technician

**Photo 25.** Email correspondence between Steve Freese of the State Land Board and Dave Nicholson of Nicholson GeoSolution indicating that all access roads in section 36 need to be reclaimed. During the site visit on February 11, 2026, the main lease road was still present going to the tank battery location. The access road from the tank battery location to Merino State 3 also has bare soil areas and does not meet final reclamation standards.



**Photo 26.** Documenting from “Final Site Reclamation Report for the Merino State No. 3 Lease Site” Document #2313913 showing access roads that need to be reclaimed.



Inspection Number: 720300150



Inspection Photos

Location Name: MERINO STATE-66N55W 36S2SE

Location ID: 313860



**Photo 27.** Google Earth satellite imagery showing the main lease road leading to the tank battery and Merino State 3 is still visible. The Northeastern section of the access road, circled in red, is progressing to final reclamation; however, the other section of the main lease road to the tank battery pits and well head is not and needs to be reclaimed. The site visit on February 11 confirmed that the main lease road was still visible and that reclamation had stalled.