

**FORM  
INSP**

Rev  
X/20

**State of Colorado  
Energy and Carbon Management Commission**

1120 Lincoln Street, Suite 801, Denver, Colorado 80203  
Phone: (303) 894-2100 Fax: (303) 894-2109



Inspection Date:

02/11/2026

Submitted Date:

03/30/2026

Document Number:

720300145

**FIELD INSPECTION FORM**

Loc ID: 394817      Inspector Name: Thibedeau, Isaac      On-Site Inspection:       2A Doc Num: \_\_\_\_\_

**Status Summary:**

THIS IS A FOLLOW UP INSPECTION

FOLLOW UP INSPECTION REQUIRED

NO FOLLOW UP INSPECTION REQUIRED

**Findings:**

4      Number of Comments

1      Number of Corrective Actions

Corrective Action Response Requested

**Operator Information:**

ECMC Operator Number: 74770

Name of Operator: RITCHIE EXPLORATION INC

Address: P O BOX 783188

City: WICHITA      State: KS      Zip: 67278-

**ANY CORRECTIVE ACTION(S) FROM PREVIOUS INSPECTIONS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN ADDRESSED ARE STILL APPLICABLE**

**Contact Information:**

Contact Name	Phone	Email	Comment
Niernberger, John	(316) 691-9500	jniernberger@ritchie-exp.com	
Fiorini, Peter		pfiorini@ritchie-exp.com	
Binschus, Chris		chris.binschus@state.co.us	
Freese, Steve		steve.freese@state.co.us	
Rowe, Gary	(620) 872-0330	rowe_gary@sbglobal.net	
Nicholas, Dave	(303)601-2023	dknicholson@q.com	

**Inspected Facilities:**

Facility ID	Type	Status	Status Date	Well Class	API Num	Facility Name	Insp Status
226240	WELL	PA	03/18/1998	OW	087-06775	MERINO-STATE 1	RI
394817	LOCATION	CL			-	MERINO-STATE-66N55W 36NESE	RI

**General Comment:**

This is a follow-up Final Reclamation Inspection for PA Well API#087-06775. Previous inspection was performed on 2/25/10 (Doc #200233121). Well was plugged and abandoned on 03/18/1998. Previous Inspection indicated that vegetation had not met final reclamation standards with vegetative cover of less than 80%. During the inspection, it appeared that the location is not progressing to final reclamation standards, and there were significant bare areas on the southern portion of the location. The access road to this location from the north also has bare areas. Refer to inspection photos.

This location is also associated with a pit complex to the north-east. Pit areas do not meet final reclamation standards and have compaction issues and areas with potential salt kills.

**Location**

Overall Good:

Emergency Contact Number:

Comment:

Corrective Action:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Overall Good:

**Spills:**

Type	Area	Volume		

In Containment: No

Comment:

Multiple Spills and Releases?

**Equipment:**

Type:	#		corrective date
Comment:	No visual evidence of oil and gas equipment at the well or associated tank battery location. Refer to the attached inspection photos.		
Corrective Action:			Date:

**Venting:**

Yes/No			
Comment:			
Corrective Action:			Date:

**Flaring:**

Type		
Comment:		
Corrective Action:		Date:

**Inspected Facilities**

Facility ID: 226240 Type: WELL API Number: 087-06775 Status: PA Insp. Status: RI

The subreport 'InspWellFlowline' could not be found at the specified location \\10.14.12

Facility ID: 394817 Type: LOCATION API Number: - Status: CL Insp. Status: RI

The subreport 'InspWellFlowline' could not be found at the specified location \\10.14.12

**Environmental**

**Spills/Releases:**

Type of Spill: \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated Spill Volume: \_\_\_\_\_  
Comment:   
Corrective Action:  Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reportable: \_\_\_\_\_ GPS: Lat \_\_\_\_\_ Long \_\_\_\_\_  
Proximity to Surface Water: \_\_\_\_\_ Depth to Ground Water: \_\_\_\_\_

**Water Well Complaint:**

DWR Receipt Num: \_\_\_\_\_ Owner Name: \_\_\_\_\_ GPS : \_\_\_\_\_  
Lat \_\_\_\_\_ Long \_\_\_\_\_

**Field Parameters:**

Sample Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

**Reclamation - Storm Water - Pit**

**Interim Reclamation:**

Date Interim Reclamation Started: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Interim Reclamation Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Land Use: \_\_\_\_\_

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

**1002 SITE PREPARATION AND STABILIZATION**

1002a. FENCING \_\_\_\_\_

Comment \_\_\_\_\_

Corrective Action \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

1002b. SOIL REMOVAL AND SEGREGATION \_\_\_\_\_

Comment \_\_\_\_\_

Corrective Action \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

1002c. PROTECTION OF SOILS \_\_\_\_\_

Comment \_\_\_\_\_

Corrective Action \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

1002E. SURFACE DISTURBANCE MINIMIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

Comment \_\_\_\_\_

Corrective Action \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

1003a. Waste and Debris removed? \_\_\_\_\_

Comment \_\_\_\_\_

Corrective Action \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Unused or unneeded equipment onsite? \_\_\_\_\_

Comment \_\_\_\_\_

Corrective Action \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Pit, cellars, rat holes and other bores closed? \_\_\_\_\_

Comment \_\_\_\_\_

Corrective Action \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Guy line anchors marked? \_\_\_\_\_

Comment \_\_\_\_\_

Corrective Action \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

1003b. Area no longer in use? \_\_\_\_\_ Production areas stabilized ? \_\_\_\_\_

1003c. Compacted areas have been cross ripped? \_\_\_\_\_

1003d. Drilling pit closed? \_\_\_\_\_ Subsidence over on drill pit? \_\_\_\_\_

Cuttings management: \_\_\_\_\_

1003e. Areas no longer needed for drilling or subsequent operations for have been re-vegetated to 80% of pre-existing? \_\_\_\_\_

Production areas have been stabilized? \_\_\_\_\_ Segregated soils have been replaced? \_\_\_\_\_

RESTORATION AND REVEGETATION

Cropland

Top soil replaced \_\_\_\_\_ Recontoured \_\_\_\_\_ Perennial forage re-established \_\_\_\_\_

Non-Cropland

Top soil replaced \_\_\_\_\_ Recontoured \_\_\_\_\_ 80% Revegetation \_\_\_\_\_

1003e. INTERIM VEGETATION TRANSECT

TRANSECT RESULTS OF DISTURBED AREA% \_\_\_\_\_

TRANSECT RESULTS OF REFERENCE AREA% \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL % OF DESIRABLE VEGETATION COVER \_\_\_\_\_

VEGETATIVE COVER \_\_\_\_\_

1003 f. Weeds Noxious weeds? \_\_\_\_\_

Comment

Corrective Action

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Overall Interim Reclamation

**Final Reclamation/ Abandoned Location:**

Date Final Reclamation Started: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Final Reclamation Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Final Land Use: \_\_\_\_\_

Reminder: \_\_\_\_\_

Comment:

Well plugged Pass Pit mouse/rat holes, cellars backfilled \_\_\_\_\_

Debris removed \_\_\_\_\_ No disturbance /Location never built \_\_\_\_\_

Access Roads Regraded \_\_\_\_\_ Contoured \_\_\_\_\_ Culverts removed \_\_\_\_\_

Gravel removed \_\_\_\_\_

Location and associated production facilities reclaimed **Fail** Locations, facilities, roads, recontoured **Fail**

Compaction alleviation **Fail** Dust and erosion control **Fail**

Non cropland: Revegetated 80% **Fail** Cropland: perennial forage \_\_\_\_\_

Weeds present **Fail** Subsidence \_\_\_\_\_

1004.d. FINAL VEGETATION TRANSECT

TRANSECT RESULTS OF DISTURBED AREA% \_\_\_\_\_

TRANSECT RESULTS OF REFERENCE AREA% \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL % OF DESIRABLE VEGETATION COVER \_\_\_\_\_

VEGETATIVE COVER \_\_\_\_\_

Comment:

Well location appears to have stalled and is not progressing to final reclamation. The disturbance area has desirable grass and shrub species growing on it. However, undesirable weeds are present on the southern side of the site, and a large portion of it has bare, exposed soil. In a previous inspection, the location was left in progress for final reclamation because the vegetation cover had not met the 80% threshold. It appears that the location has regressed, and there are more bare areas because it is not very close to achieving 80% uniform cover, compared to the reference area. Additionally, the access road to this location from the northeast has stunted vegetation and areas of bare soil. Refer to the attached inspection photos.

Corrective Action:

Comply with Rule 1004. Reseed bare areas and access road using a seed mixture requested by the surface owner or a mixture prescribed by the local county NRCS. Establish vegetation with a total perennial, non-invasive, uniform plant cover of at least eighty (80) percent of reference area levels. Ensure erosion controls are implemented to stabilize the seeded soil. Operator shall continue to monitor and manage this site until the location meets Rule 1004 standards, including stormwater and weed management.

Date **05/29/2026**

Overall Final Reclamation

**Fail**

Well Release on Active Location

Multi-Well Location

**Attached Documents**

You can go to ECMC Images (<https://ecmc.state.co.us/weblink/>) and search by document number:

Document Num	Description	URL
720300153	Inspection Photo Log	<a href="http://ogccweblink.state.co.us/DownloadDocumentPDF.aspx?DocumentId=7497592">http://ogccweblink.state.co.us/DownloadDocumentPDF.aspx?DocumentId=7497592</a>