




COLORADO DIVISION OF RECLAMATION, MINING AND SAFETY
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: Howard Creek Pit #1 & #2	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1999-033	MINERAL: Gravel	COUNTY: Fremont
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	INSPECTOR(S): Timothy A. Cazier	INSP. DATE: March 14, 2013	INSP. TIME: 10:10
OPERATOR: Fremont County Board of Commissioners	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Curtis Stone	TYPE OF OPERATION: 110c - Construction Limited Impact	

REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: None	BOND AMOUNT: \$0.00
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None
WEATHER: Clear	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: January 2, 2014

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>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>N</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>Y</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>Y</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>Y</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>Y</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>Y</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>Y</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>N</u>	(SB) COMPLETE INSP---- <u>N</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>Y</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>Y</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>Y</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>NA</u>	(OD) OFF-SITE DAMAGE----- <u>Y</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>Y</u>

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

OBSERVATIONS

This inspection was conducted as part of the regular monitoring program. The Operator was represented by Curtis Stone, who was present for the inspection. This is a 110c gravel mine operated by Fremont County.

The Howard Creek Pit #1 & #2 is located approximately 3 miles west of Howard at the intersection of Fremont Co Rd 4 and Canterbury Ranch Road in Fremont Co.

Inspection:

A permit sign had been displayed at the site entrance (see **Photo 1**). A topsoil stockpile was observed to be stable (see **Photo 2**).

The pit was not active at the time of the inspection. Some stockpiled material was observed in the east pit. Mr. Curtis explained the County hires a contractor to crush the material. A Cat 938F loader was observed on site in the east pit where the county is currently operating. Based on the loader specifications (height), the pit wall is estimated to be about 15 feet high (see **Photo 3**). The highwall in the east portion of the pit is near vertical. However, no sloughing other than loose material that would be expected from the observed loader working the face was observed. This inspector expressed concerns about the stability of the access road (see **Photo 4**) and how the road will be maintained to allow the landowner to access the property to the south. The south boundary of the east pit is marked with a fence and a gate (see **Photo 5**).

The west side pit has been mined out and reclaimed. The reclaimed slope is north facing and had some snow cover. Vegetation was observed poking through the snow (see **Photo 6**).

File Review:

- The original approved mine plan does not specifically address the slope of excavated slopes.
- The total permitted area is 9.8 acres (revised in Amendment 1, approved 10/17/2013).
- The previous inspection was conducted on 9/5/2007, no problems were cited.
- This is a county pit, therefore no financial warranty exists.
- Annual fees and reports are up to date through 2013. The 2013 Annual Report indicates 4.8 acres have been disturbed.
- The map submitted with the 2013 Annual Report is appears to be outdated as it shows the working face to be on the west end, which has been revegetated.
- The post-mine land use is rangeland per Amendment 1.

Current Stipulations:

None.

Summary & Recommendations:

1. The Operator should either flatten or begin backfilling slopes adjacent to the east pit access road such that the slope is near 3H:1V for the stability and safety of the access road.
2. The Operator should update the mine map for the 2014 Annual Report to show current working areas.
3. Signs identifying topsoil stockpiles should be placed on topsoil piles similar to those used by Fremont County on their other pits.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1. Required permit sign.



Photo 2. East pit topsoil stockpile (south side, looking SW).



Photo 3. East pit highwall & loader (looking north).



Photo 4. East pit highwall & access road (looking south).



Photo 5. South boundary gate & fence (looking south).



Photo 6. West pit reclamation (looking SW).

Inspection Contact Address

Curtis Stone
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1170 Red Canyon Road
Cañon City, CO 81212

CC: Tom Kaldenbach, DRMS
DRMS file