



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: Gaede Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1978-051	MINERAL: Sand and gravel	COUNTY: Lincoln
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	INSPECTOR(S): Amy Eschberger	INSP. DATE: April 3, 2014	INSP. TIME: 10:30
OPERATOR: Lincoln County	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: John Dewitt	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: Snowing	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: <i>Amy Eschberger</i>	SIGNATURE DATE: April 21, 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>NA</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>NA</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>NA</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>Y</u>	(SB) COMPLETE INSP---- <u>Y</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>NA</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>NA</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 by Amy Eschberger, Tyler O'Donnell, and Tony Waldron of the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division). Also present were John DeWitt, Lincoln County Land Use Administrator, and Mark McHone and Josh Niebur from Lincoln County Road and Bridge District #2. At the time of inspection, it was snowy, windy and cold, and the ground was blanketed with snow. The Division decided to continue with the inspection despite inclement weather conditions since the affected area is rather small in size and the layout of the pit is simple, making it easy to evaluate.

The Gaede Pit is located approximately 2 miles north and 3.75 miles east from Limon, Colorado, in the breaks between the upland plains and the Big Sandy Valley, where hills and ravines are fairly steep and abrupt. The surrounding area is rangeland, and post-mining land use of the site is general agriculture. During inspection, an appropriate permit sign was seen posted at the entrance off of County Road 3J (Photo 1), and the permit boundary was clearly delineated with rebar stakes (Photo 2).

The site is permitted for 9.9 acres and is reported to have affected 5.9 acres to date. Material was initially removed east to west from a hillside located in the northwestern portion of the permit area, then proceeded in a west to east fashion, creating a generally level topography, except for the southern (north-facing) wall (Photo 3), which has been mostly graded to 3H:1V. The sand and gravel was mined for maintenance of Lincoln County roads. No mining activity was taking place during the inspection and no equipment was present. The last activity was reported to have occurred in October of 2012. This pit operates under intermittent status, as approved by the Division on April 5, 2013 under Technical Revision 3. During inspection, Mr. DeWitt stated that all available material has been exhausted in the permitted area, and the County plans to begin reclamation procedures this year. According to C.R.S. 34-32.5-116(4)(q)(I), final reclamation shall be completed within five years after mining has ceased.

No stockpiles were present during inspection. According to Technical Revision 1, approved by the Division on April 16, 2010, approximately 2,602 cubic yards of clean topsoil will be imported by Lincoln County to spread across 5.53 acres at an average depth of 3.5 inches. However, since the current affected area is comprised of 5.9 acres, the volume of topsoil will need to be at least 2,776 cubic yards for a depth of 3.5 inches. Although the approved permit requires only 3-4 inches of topsoil, the Division recommends that 6-12 inches be used to better achieve success with revegetation. If 6-12 inches of topsoil will be used, then 4,759 to 9,519 cubic yards will need to be imported to cover the 5.9 acres.

For reclamation, steeper portions of the southern wall will need to be regraded to 3H:1V. The approved seed mixture recommended by the NRCS should be used in efforts to revegetate the disturbed area. Because much of the ground was covered by snow during the inspection, the Division was unable to do a thorough investigation of vegetation; however, it appeared that natural vegetation has begun to establish on the southern wall (Photo 4), especially its eastern portion, and throughout much of the site (Photo 5), not including the access road. This vegetation will help stabilize the affected area until reclamation begins.

No noxious weeds were obvious during inspection. All Lincoln County pits are inspected by their weed control officer twice each year to treat any weeds in the pit area or haul road.

No problems were cited for this site.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1. Permit sign posted at entrance to site, off County Road 3J.



Photo 2. View looking west, showing rebar stake (circled in red) marking northeastern corner of permit area.



Photo 3. View looking south at southern (north-facing) wall that has been regraded mostly to 3H:1V.



Photo 4. View looking south at southern (north-facing) wall (from further east than in Photo 3) showing some establishment of natural vegetation.



Photo 5. View looking west, showing some establishment of natural vegetation.

Inspection Contact Address

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