



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: Hancock Gravel Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1981-279	MINERAL: Sand and gravel	COUNTY: Otero
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	INSPECTOR(S): Tyler V. O'Donnell	INSP. DATE: February 28, 2014	INSP. TIME: 10:15
OPERATOR: Otero County	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Lex Nicols and Darren Garcia	TYPE OF OPERATION: 112c - Construction Regular Operation	

REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: None	BOND AMOUNT: N/A
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None
WEATHER: Clear	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: <i>Tyler O'Donnell</i>	SIGNATURE DATE: May 1, 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>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>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>Y</u>	(OD) OFF-SITE DAMAGE----- <u>NA</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 was a courtesy inspection conducted by Tyler O'Donnell of the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division/DRMS) at the request of Otero County. Otero County, the Operator, was represented by Lex Nichols, and Darren Garcia during the inspection. The Operator requested that the Division inspect the site, the Operator wanted to discuss final reclamation. The Hancock Gravel Pit is located in Otero County, approximately 3 miles south/southwest of the Rockford, Colorado. The Hancock Gravel Pit is a 92.00 acre 112c reclamation permit. The current disturbed area was approximately 35 acres. The primary commodities mined at the site were sand and gravel. The approved post-mining land use is Rangeland. The site is currently surrounded by rangeland.

The sky was clear. The ground was dry. No equipment present at the time of the inspection. The last activity occurred in 2008, according to the most recent annual report. The Operator's representative indicated that the site is no longer being used by the county and their intentions were to begin final reclamation within the next few years. The operator's representative explained that they would like to have the majority of the earthwork done within 4 years. No problems or violations were noted during the inspection.

Availability Of Records:

Amendment 01 (AM01) added an additional 62 acres to the permit. AM01 was approved on March 18, 1997. The amendment also incorporated a new reclamation plan and reclamation plan map.

Backfilling and Grading:

Portions of the pit appeared to be at a slope of 2.5H:1V or steeper in areas. The pit is approximately 30 feet deep. The Operator will need to grade all slopes to 3H:1V or flatter. Stockpiles of product remain onsite the Operator plans on either using the material as road base or backfilling portions of the highwall.

Hydrologic Balance:

The pit excavation is located south of the Arkansas River. The bottom of the pit was dry. There was no evidence of excessive erosion. There appeared to be no significant impacts to the prevailing hydrologic balance.

Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan:

All mining activity appeared to be within the marked permit boundaries.

Roads:

The access road was well maintained.

Reclamation Success:

The approved reclamation plan calls for slopes to be graded to 3H:1V. The reclamation plan also specifies topsoil is to be replaced at 4 to 6 inches and seeding is to be conducted with a mixture of grasses. Attached to this inspection report is the approved reclamation plan and reclamation plan map.

Revegetation:

There was some plant growth on the stockpiles and very little vegetation growth elsewhere in the disturbed area. The growth appeared to be volunteer vegetation. There were few annual weeds and thistle observed during the inspection. There were a few dead tamarisk trees the operators weed management is commendable.

Once vegetation has become established on the reclaimed slopes and meets the requirements of Rule 3.1.10(1) the site could be released. Rule 3.1.10(1) reads "Land shall be revegetated in such a way as to establish a diverse, effective, and long lasting vegetative cover that is capable of self regeneration without continued dependence on irrigation, soil amendments or fertilizer, and is at least equal in extent of cover to the natural vegetation of the surrounding area." No problems or violations were noted during the inspection.

Erosion/Sedimentation:

There was evidence erosion (rills and gullies) on the graded highwall. At the present time the rills and gullies will not be cited as a problem.

Signs and Markers:

A mine I.D. sign was located at the entrance to the mine site. The permit boundary was clearly marked by t-posts.

Topsoil:

There appeared to be an adequate amount of topsoil to reclaim the site. There was a topsoil stockpile located in the western portion of the pit and a berm around the pit comprised of topsoil.

Inspection Contact Address

Lex Nicols
Otero County
13 West 3rd Street, Suite 208
La Junta, CO 81050

Enclosure: Approved reclamation plan

CC: Tom Kaldenbach, DRMS
Amy Eschberger, DRMS

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: View looking southwest taken from the access road. Slopes in the background are graded to 3H:1V in some area the Operator will need to repair the erosion features.



Photo 2: View looking southeast taken from the near access road. Slopes in the background are graded to 3H:1V in some area the Operator will need to repair the erosion features.



Photo 3: Topsoil stockpile in the foreground.



Photo 4: Topsoil and product stockpile in the background.

EXHIBIT "E"

SECTION 3.1 - RECLAMATION REQUIREMENTS

3.1.1 Establish Post-Mining Use

(i) The Operator (Otero County) in agreement with the Property Owner (Lee and Eleanor Hancock) plan to reclaim the affected lands for range land and pasture land. The area will be seeded for range land.

(ii) The results of these decisions will be covered as specified in Subsections 6.3.4 and 6.4.5 as part of plan Exhibit "E" of this application, of which this is a part, had all of these decision formulated into what the operator believes is an adequate Reclamation Plan.

3.1.2 Reclaiming Substituted Land

No substitute land will be involved within the operation.

3.1.3 Time Limit and Phased Reclamation

All reclamation shall be carried to completion by the Operator with all reasonable diligence, and each phase of reclamation shall be completed within five years from the date the operator informs the Board or Office such phase has commenced.

3.1.4 Public Use

The Operator and Land Owner will not allow the public to use the private pasture land.

3.1.5 Reclamation Measures - Material Handling

(1) Grading shall be carried on so as to create a final topography appropriate to the final land use selected in the Reclamation Plan (pasture land).

(2) When back filling is a part of the plan.....

No back filling is planned or proposed and there is no acid forming toxic materials to be leached.

(3) All grading will be done in a manner to control erosion and siltation of the affected lands, to protect areas outside the affected lands from slides and other damages. If not eliminated, all high walls shall be stabilized.

(4) The Operator will back fill and grade as soon as feasible

after the mining process. It is the Operator's desire at any time in the life of the pit area, that 8 to 10 acres can be properly sloped, back filled and graded, reclamation will commence. The Operator shall establish reasonable time tables consistent with good mining practices and reclamation procedures.

(5) There will be no acid forming or toxic materials mined or handled. There will be no refuse. No pollution from drainage should occur.

(6) There are no drill or auger holes on site to be plugged to prevent polluting drainage. There are no adits or shafts to be closed or reclaimed.

(7) Back slopes will have a maximum of 3H:1V or flatter. No swimming or pond is planned involved in the Reclamation Plan.f

(8) The Operator and Owners choice of reclamation is pasture land. The use of farm machinery would be minimal if any, but with back slope of 3H:1V or flatter the land could be traversed with farm machinery.

(9) No structural back fill will be used.

(10) The materials mined will be sand and gravel. There will be no pollutants released to the surface drainage.

(11) There will be no materials mined, handled or disposed of that will release pollutants to the ground water.

3.1.6 General Requirements

Not applicable to this mining operation.

3.1.7 Ground Water - Specific Requirements

This mining operation will have no affect on ground water. No other water permits will be required.

3.1.8 Wildlife

(1) The Operator will consider the safety and protection of wildlife on the site. We will adhere to all recommendations from the Division of Wildlife.

(2) Habitat management is not a part of the Reclamation Plan for the site. The area is presently used as dry land pasture.

3.1.9 Topsoiling

(1) Topsoil will be segregated from other soil to help prevent deterioration and erosion. If topsoil is to remain stockpiled for

more than one growing season, a SCS recommended vegetative cover will be used to protect from erosion and remain free of any contamination of toxic or acid forming materials. Additional topsoil will be hauled to the site from borrow pit cleaning.

(2) There is no woody vegetation on site.

(3) Topsoil will be maintained in the affected area along the perimeter of the mined area to help prevent erosion. Topsoil stock piles will be maintained in low, relatively flat piles and no to be disturbed by daily mining activity.

(4) The Operator Plans to stockpile the topsoil around the perimeter of the mined area, away from daily mining activity. Operator prefers to handle the top soil only once.

(5) The plan calls for no slope greater than 3H:1V or flatter. the Operator will scarify the back filled surfaces to insure bonding.

(6) The Operator acknowledges the Boards discretion to insure topsoil is of sufficient quantity and quality to sustain vegetation. The Operator feels with the growth media on site combined with the topsoil hauled in from borrow pit cleaning we will have suitable material for revegetation.

(7) The topsoil will be replaced evenly over the site at an average depth of 4 to 6 inches as recommended by the SCS.

(8) There are no vegetation piles to be dealt with on site.

3.1.10 Revegetation

(1) The Revegetation Plan prepared by SCS appears to meet the criteria of a diverse, effective and long lasting vegetative cover that is capable of self-regeneration without continued dependence on irrigation, soil amendments of fertilizer, and is at least equal in extent of cover to the natural vegetation of the surrounding area.

(2) The Operator and Owner has not selected forest planting at this site. N/A

(3) The Operators choice is for rangeland after the terraces are removed slopes will be shaped whereby a gentle rolling terrain will exist and not to steep for livestock to traverse. The area will be seeded by mechanical equipment.

(4) The Operator will adhere to the SCS recommended Vegetation Plan Exhibit J.

3.1.11 Building and Structures

There are no buildings within 200 feet of the affected area.

3.1.12 Signs and Markers

(1) The Operator will post a sign at the entrance of mine site containing, name of operator, a statement that a reclamation permit for the operation has been issued by the MLRB and the permit number.

(2) The boundaries of the affected area will be adequately delineated with orange painted posts.

(b) The Operator will post a Performance Warranty for the affected area.

(3) N/A

6.4.5 Exhibit E - Reclamation Plan

(2) (d) Where applicable, plans for topsoil segregation, preservation, and replacement; for stabilization, compaction, and grading of spoil; and for revegetation. The Revegetation Plan shall contain a list of the preferred species of grass, legumes, forbes, shrubs or trees to be planted, the method and rates of seeding and planting, the estimated availability of viable seed in sufficient quantities of the species proposed to be used and the proposed time of seeding and planting.

Sentence One - Please refer to Section 3.1.5 Reclamation Measures Material Handling, presented earlier in this Reclamation Section.

Sentence Two - Please refer to Section 3.1.10 Revegetation, presented earlier in this Reclamation Section.

(e) A plan or schedule indicating how and when reclamation will be implemented, the plan or schedule shall include:

(i) An estimate of the periods of time which will be required for various stages of reclamation:

Reclamation will occur at any time period 8 to 10 acres becomes feasibly available, allowing for equipment, equipment movement and stockpiling. This is estimated to be within 4 to 7 years. Reclamation will follow mining as closely as possible and is intended to be complete 5 years after mining and stockpile removal.

(ii) A description of the size and location of each area to be reclaimed during each phase:

Mining will continue from the south and west of existing 112 Permitted Boundary, to the south and west proposed amended limit boundary (Exhibit C). Reclamation will occur in 8 to 10 acre increments.

(iii) An outline of the sequence in which each stage or phase will be carried out:

Phases will be carried out as follows:

- a. back slope and grade
- b. topsoil
- c. scarify
- d. fertilize
- e. drill seed
- f. mulch and crimp

(f) A description:

(i) Final Grading: Will be a maximum 3H:1V

(ii) Seeding, types, mixtures, quantities, and expected time of seeding:

<u>Variety</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Pure Live Seed/Acre</u>
Vaughn	Sideoats Grama	9.0
Lovington or Hachita	Blue Grama	3.0
Native	Sand Dropseed	0.6
Native	Little Bluestem	3.5

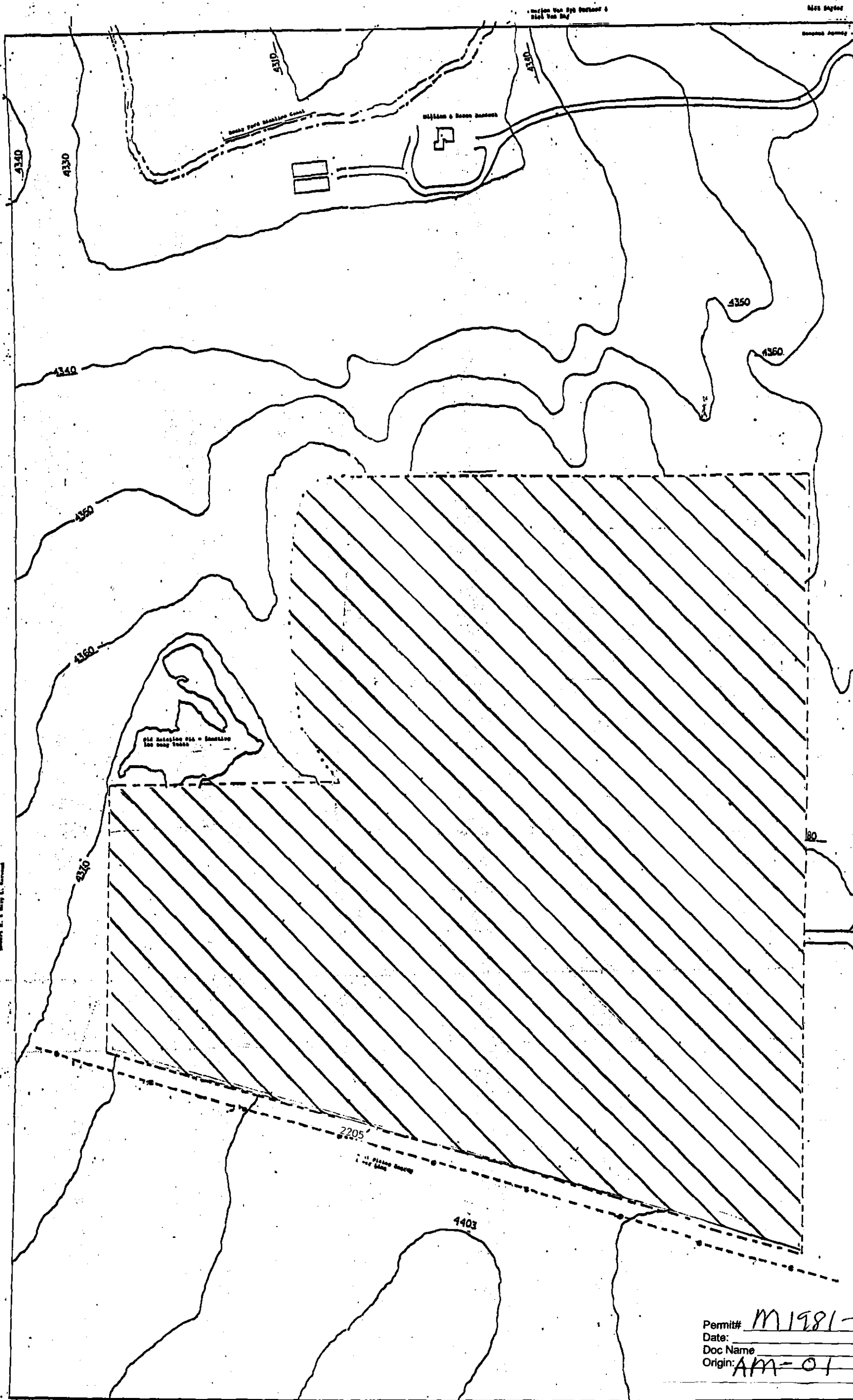
SCS recommended seeding time: November 15th to April 15th

(iii) Fertilization type, quantity and time of application:
SCS recommends prior to seeding 40 pounds per acre.

(iv) Revegetation - Type of trees, shrubs, etc:
None Proposed

(v) Topsoiling - Specify anticipated minimum depth or range of depths for those areas which will be top soiled:

Topsoil will be replaced at an average depth of 4 to 6 inches.



CO. RD. 18

FIELD RD.

SCALE: 1" = 300'

RECOMMENDED SPECIES		
VARIETY	SPECIES	PLANT
VALUON	SHOOTS GRASS	10
LEWIS & CLARK	SHAW GRASS	10
MATIVE	SAND DROPS	10
MATIVE	LITTLE BLUESTEM	10

MAP LEGEND
EXISTING PIT PERMITTED AREA
PROPOSED HANCOCK PIT AREA
POWER LINE

DATE DRAWN: Nov. 14, 1995
DATE: Nov. 14, 1995
DATE: Nov. 14, 1995

OTERO CO. HANCOCK GRAVEL PIT	
RECLAMATION MAP	
SCALE: 1" = 300'	DRAWN BY: Van Ruman
DATE PREPARED: SEPT. 17, 1995	

EXHIBIT:
Presented by Otero County
Hansford's Office

Permit# M1981-279
Date: _____
Doc Name: _____ See Map
Origin: AM-01

U. S. G. Survey of the S. 1/2 of
Sec. 16, Twp. 23 N.,
R. 10 E.

00014910