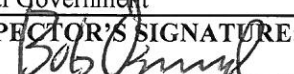




COLORADO DIVISION OF RECLAMATION, MINING AND SAFETY
MINERALS PROGRAM INSPECTION REPORT
PHONE: (303) 866-3567

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: South Fork Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1987-019	MINERAL: Sand and gravel	COUNTY: Rio Grande
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	INSPECTOR(S): Bob Oswald	INSP. DATE: May 30, 2014	INSP. TIME: 09:00
OPERATOR: Rio Grande County	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: None	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: Local Government	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None
WEATHER: Cloudy	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: June 25, 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>NA</u>	(FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY----- <u>NA</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>NA</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>NA</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>Y</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>Y</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>NA</u>	(SB) COMPLETE INSP---- <u>NA</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>NA</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>Y</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>N</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>NA</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 routine inspection conducted by the Division as part of its monitoring of Construction Materials110c permits. The operator was not present and the site was not active during the inspection.

The required permit ID sign was observed posted at the entrance to the permitted area. Permit boundary markers were installed along the permit boundary. The entrance was not gated but there was a locked cable to keep unauthorized vehicles out. It did not keep out cattle, however, and the site had numerous cow-calf pairs in it. Since the site is not in the revegetation stage of reclamation, the livestock present was not a problem. But the operator should be aware that when seeding is performed to re-establish revegetation on the site, animals should be deferred until the vegetation establishment can be verified.

There was no equipment and no fuel stored at the site. There were several stockpiles of various materials observed in the pit and up on unmined ground south of the pit, including approx 900 cu yds of washed 3/8" gravel for CDOT, approx 2000 cu yds of pitrun, approx 50 cu yds of cobbles, and approx 2000 cu yds of 3/4" gravel. There is a pile of topsoil on the SE corner of the site, containing approx 1500-2000 cu yds. It is not clear if this is soil that has been stripped from the site or has been imported from another location. If it has been imported, the operator must ensure that a Notice has been filed with the Division, containing information that conforms with Rule 3.1.5(9). Also, it is not clear if the operator's plan is for the topsoil to be used for reclamation or is to be consumed by mixing it with the processed aggregate and hauled offsite. The operator should ensure that this information is reported to the Division and is included in the approved plan.

All slopes have been graded to 3:1 or gentler, but none of the slopes appear to have been topsoiled or seeded. Some of the slopes are currently in their final location, and the operator is encouraged to begin performing some of the final reclamation activities on them, since slopes can take a longer time than other areas. Before commencing reclamation tasks the operator should review the plan.

There were many small narrowleaf cottonwoods in the pit, indicating the pit's proximity to the Rio Grande and the shallow depth to groundwater. Water is not exposed in the pit. There were no noxious weeds onsite, but all disturbed areas contain kochia. This is not a problem, but it would be beneficial to begin reducing this plant in the permit before final reclamation activities begin. Undisturbed areas of the permit contain good stands of blue grama.

There were no problems noted. For questions related to this report, please contact this inspector at the Division's Durango Field Office: telephone 970-247-5193, or 303-866-3567 ext 8175.

All written correspondence should be sent directly to the Division's Denver Office:
Division of Reclamation, Mining & Safety
1313 Sherman Street, Room 215
Denver, CO 80203

Inspection Contact Address

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P.O. Box 46
Monte Vista, CO 81144

PHOTOGRAPHS

