



**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.

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|--|---|--|-----------------------------|
| <b>MINE NAME:</b><br>City of Las Animas Sand Excavation Area | <b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b><br>M-2012-008    | <b>MINERAL:</b><br>Sand  | <b>COUNTY:</b><br>Bent      |
| <b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b><br>Monitoring                        | <b>INSPECTOR(S):</b><br>Amy Eschberger        | <b>INSP. DATE:</b><br>August 13, 2014                                | <b>INSP. TIME:</b><br>14:00 |
| <b>OPERATOR:</b><br>City of Las Animas                       | <b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b><br>Ken Wagner | <b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b><br>111 - Construction by Government Agency |                             |

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|---|--|--|
| <b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b><br>Normal I&E Program | <b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b><br>None                  | <b>BOND AMOUNT:</b><br>NA                  |
| <b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b><br>NA                     | <b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b><br>None                    | <b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b><br>None         |
| <b>WEATHER:</b><br>Clear                            | <b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b><br><i>Amy Eschberger</i> | <b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b><br>October 16, 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>Y</u>  | (SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>NA</u> | (TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>Y</u>       |
| (MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>Y</u>    | (FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>N</u>        | (RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>NA</u>  |
| (SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>Y</u>        | (SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>N</u>    | (SB) COMPLETE INSP---- <u>Y</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>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 normal monitoring inspection of the City of Las Animas Sand Excavation Area mine (Permit No. M-2012-008) conducted by Amy Eschberger of the Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety (Division). Mr. Ken Wagner represented the Operator, City of Las Animas, for the inspection. This site is located approximately 4.5 miles southwest of Las Animas, Colorado, in Bent County, on land owned by Kenneth K. and Jean Marie Wagner. The Purgatoire River is located approximately one mile southeast of the site. Access to the site is at a bend in Co Rd CC where it turns into Rd 11/Co Rd 9.5 going north. The post-mining land use is pastureland.

This is a 111 Special Operation permitted for 11.47 acres to mine sand to average depths of four to eight feet to use for pipe bedding materials. Mining is conducted primarily in a southwest to northeast fashion, leveling a sandy ridge to the elevation of the surrounding fields. The approved mining plan states that no more than 2 acres will be affected at any time. Current disturbance is estimated to be approximately 1.7 acres. According to the approved reclamation plan, the access road that enters the pit from the southwest will not be reclaimed and is not included in the permit area. Some mining activities had occurred south of the site prior to approval of this permit. The approved mining plan indicates the operation is to maintain a 250 foot setback from the county road located west of the site. The operation appears to be in compliance with this setback as it is approximately 280 feet from the road. Mined material is transported to the City of Las Animas abandoned sewer lagoon cell.

At the time of the inspection, the weather was warm and sunny, and the ground was dry. A permit sign was posted at the entrance to the site (Photo 1). The affected area was clearly marked by metal posts (Photo 2). No mining activities were occurring during the inspection and no equipment was present on site. The approximate 1.7 acres of disturbance includes an open sand pit with mined walls along the northern (Photo 3) and western (Photo 4) edges, a mined material stockpile in the western portion of the pit (see Photo 3), and a topsoil stockpile stored at the southwestern corner of the pit (Photo 5).

The mined wall that runs along the northern edge of the pit is 5-10 feet in height, and daylights to the south (see Photo 3). The mined wall that runs along the western edge of the pit is up to 5 feet in height and daylights to the east (see Photo 4). The Operator should be careful not to disturb much more land going westward, as the western extent of disturbance is currently within 30 feet of the required setback from the county road. All stockpiles appeared to be stable. Vegetation consisting mainly of annual weeds has volunteered across the topsoil stockpile.

No vegetation is present on the pit floor. Vegetation in the undisturbed portions of the permit area (Photo 6) consists of native grasses and forbs, sagebrush, and annual weeds (mostly Russian thistle). Some wild sunflowers are present in disturbed areas around the edges of the pit. No problems were observed at this site with the growth of state-listed noxious weeds.

As the Operator is a unit of government, no Financial Warranty is required for this site.

## **PHOTOGRAPHS**



**Photo 1.** View of permit sign posted at entrance to site.



**Photo 2.** View of metal post marking northwest corner of affected area.



**Photo 3.** View looking north into pit, showing mined wall that daylights to the south, material stockpile, and portion of topsoil stockpile (at left).





**Photo 4.** View looking west at mined wall of pit that daylights to the east.



**Photo 5.** View of topsoil stockpile located at southwestern corner of pit



**Photo 6.** View looking southwest from northwestern corner of disturbed area, showing native vegetation present in undisturbed portions of permit area.

**Inspection Contact Address**

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Las Animas, CO 81054

CC: Tom Kaldenbach, DRMS