



**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.

<b>MINE NAME:</b> Lusk Pit #36	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-2009-002	<b>MINERAL:</b> Sand and gravel	<b>COUNTY:</b> Baca
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Amy Eschberger	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> November 19, 2014	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 08:00
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Baca County	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Norm Shaw and Waylon Hoeffner	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 112c - Construction Regular Operation	

<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Normal I&E Program	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> None	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$0.00
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> None	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None
<b>WEATHER:</b> Clear	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> <i>Amy Eschberger</i>	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> June 29, 2015

**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>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>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 Lusk Pit #36 (Permit No. M-2009-002) conducted by Amy Eschberger of the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division). Mr. Norm Shaw and Mr. Waylon Hoeffner represented the operator, Baca County for the inspection. The site is located approximately 14 miles southwest from Springfield, CO on land owned by Rhual R. and Bonnie E. Lusk. The site can be accessed from the west by Co Rd 21. The approved post-mining land use is rangeland.

This is a 112c operation permitted for 34.33 acres to mine a caliche ridgeline that runs mainly across the southern portion of the permit area. The caliche is used by the county for road surfacing. The maximum mining depth is approximately 10 feet. The maximum allowed disturbed acreage at any time is 20 acres. The topography drops off fairly quickly from the southern end of the site (ridgeline) to the northern end of the site. The surrounding land is relatively flat rangeland.

At the time of the inspection, the weather was clear, cold and sunny, and the ground had some snow cover. A permit identification sign was posted at the main site entrance off of Co Rd 21 (**Photo 1**). The permit boundary was delineated by 4-strand barbed wire fencing (**Photo 2**). The mine was not active during the inspection, and no equipment was present on site. Mr. Shaw and Mr. Hoeffner stated that no extraction has occurred at this pit since the later part of 2012. However, the county hauls product off site from the caliche stockpile every year, which is in compliance with its intermittent status.

Overall, mining will proceed eastward through the permit area until the caliche ridge has been mined out. The Division estimates that approximately 4.30 acres have been disturbed by this operation thus far (see enclosed Google Earth image of site), which is well within the maximum allowed disturbance. The disturbed area includes a small waste rock stockpile on the far western portion (near Co Rd 21; **Photo 3**), a caliche stockpile on the northwestern portion (near the main entrance; **Photos 4 and 5**), a dirt haul road that circles through the pit, a half-box shaped extraction area with 3H:1V or flatter slopes on the southeastern portion (**Photos 6-8**), and a topsoil berm that runs along the top (southern) edge of the pit (**Photo 9**). The operator is keeping the topsoil berm a minimum of 10 feet from the southern property fenceline (**Photo 10**) as committed to in the approved mining plan. This stockpile was 20-25 feet from the fenceline at the time of the inspection, and it appeared to be stable with some vegetative cover. All stockpiles and mined surfaces appeared to be stable at the time of the inspection. Some native grasses, annual weeds (mainly Russian thistle), and yucca have volunteered into the pit area.

The approved reclamation plan calls for grading all mined slopes to 3H:1V or flatter, replacing a minimum of 6 inches of topsoil on disturbed areas, and revegetating the site to rangeland. The existing access road will be extended eastward as the operation continues in that direction. This road will remain after reclamation for use by the landowner. An existing two track ranch road cuts across the far eastern portion of the permit area, connecting to Co Rd 22 which runs east-west adjacent to the southern permit boundary. According to the approved mining plan, this ranch road may be mined through, and will not be restored during final reclamation (as agreed upon with the landowner).

No problems were observed on site at the time of the inspection.

## PHOTOGRAPHS



**Photo 1.** View of permit sign posted at main entrance to site off of Co Rd 21.



**Photo 2.** View looking east from mine entrance, showing northern permit boundary delineated by 4-strand barbed wire fence (indicated with red dashed line). Note caliche stockpile at right.





**Photo 3.** View looking northwest from southwestern portion of permit area, showing small waste rock stockpile (indicated) stored at western edge of site.



**Photo 4.** View looking north from southwestern portion of permit area, showing caliche stockpile stored in northwestern portion of permit area, near mine entrance.





**Photo 5.** View looking west from pit floor, showing eastern side of caliche stockpile stored in northwestern portion of permit area, near mine entrance.



**Photo 6.** View looking west from pit floor, showing mined slope with approximate 3H:1V gradient.





**Photo 7.** View looking northwest from southeastern edge of pit, showing mined slopes with 3H:1V or flatter gradients.



**Photo 8.** View looking west from southeastern edge of pit, showing mined slopes with 3H:1V or flatter gradients.





**Photo 9.** View looking southwest, showing topsoil berm stored along top (southern) edge of pit.



**Photo 10.** View looking east from southern edge of site, showing topsoil berm maintained at more than 10 feet from property fence line that delineates southern permit boundary.

**Inspection Contact Address**

Peter Dawson  
Baca County  
741 Main St., Suite 1  
Springfield, CO 81073

Enclosure(s): Google Earth image of site

CC: Cindy Parsons  
Baca County Administrator  
741 Main St., Suite 1  
Springfield, CO 81073  
  
Wally Erickson, DRMS



# M-2009-002 / Lusk Pit #36 / Baca County

Red Line = Approved Permit Area = 34.33 acres

Blue Line = Disturbed Area = 4.30 acres (as of 11/19/2014 inspection)

