



**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> McVey Pit	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1978-225L	<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> 11:00
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Baca County	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> James Adams and Kurt Eskew	<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> NA
<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> July 1, 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>N</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 McVey Pit (Permit No. M-1978-225L) conducted by Amy Eschberger of the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division). Mr. James Adams and Mr. Kurt Eskew represented the operator, Baca County for the inspection. The site is located approximately 11 miles west of Pritchett, CO on land owned by Dan McVey. This site is situated on an old alluvial terrace which is bounded on both sides by small drainages. The site can be accessed from the west by Co Rd 2. The approved post-mining land use is rangeland.

This is a 112c operation permitted for 160 acres to mine sand and gravel for county road maintenance. The maximum mining depth is approximately 25-30 feet. The maximum allowed disturbed acreage at any time is 20 acres (as of TR-01 approved 01/07/2008). The operation maintains 3H:1V to 4H:1V slopes as material is extracted. Mining began in the northwestern portion of the permit area and will continue primarily eastward and southward.

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 2 (**Photo 1**). This sign includes the permit number as required; however, pursuant to Rule 3.1.12(1), it should also include the operator's name and a statement that the permit was issued by the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board (MLRB). The permit boundary was delineated by 4-strand barbed wire fencing. The mine was not active at the time of the inspection, and no equipment was present on site. However, the county has been hauling off from stockpiled product every year, which is in compliance with its intermittent status. At the time of the inspection, all stockpiled product had been removed from the site. Mr. Adams and Mr. Eskew indicated that the county intends to mine the pit again within the year. The operator should keep in mind that per C.R.S. 34-32.5-103(1)(b), if mining activities cease for more than a year (e.g., extraction, processing, and/or movement of stockpiled material), the operator will be required to either file a Notice of Temporary Cessation or begin final reclamation of the site.

The Division estimates that approximately 16.5 acres have been disturbed by this operation (see enclosed Google Earth image of site), which is in compliance with the maximum allowed disturbance. Current disturbance includes an oval-shaped pit that is approximately 20-25 feet deep with slope gradients of mainly 3H:1V to 4H:1V (**Photos 2-4**), topsoil berms and a few topsoil stockpiles stored along the top edges of the pit walls (**Photos 5 and 6**), and a waste rock stockpile stored just south of the access road at the pit entrance (**Photo 7**). The topsoil stockpiles appeared to be stable with some vegetative cover at the time of the inspection. Native grasses and some shrubs and forbs are volunteering across the pit floor and along much of the highwalls (see **Photos 2-6**).

The northern portion of the pit (approximately 4 acres) appeared to be in reclamation as it was graded to 3H:1V or flatter and native grasses and shrubs are establishing throughout this area (**Photos 8 and 9**). Some annual weeds were also present, but did not appear to be hindering the growth of desired vegetation. It appeared that this area had not been disturbed for some time. Once this portion of the site is fully reclaimed, if it is never redisturbed by the operation, it does not have to be included in the maximum disturbed acreage. Much of the eastern (west-facing) highwall showed some erosional damage including several rills and small gullies. It appeared that stormwater runoff is particularly concentrating on the central portion of the eastern highwall (**Photo 10**), which also has steeper slopes (closer to 2H:1V) and less vegetative cover. Mr. Adams and Mr. Eskew committed to repairing the erosional damage soon after the inspection. This matter will be followed up during the next inspection.

The approved reclamation plan calls for grading all mined slopes to 4H:1V, replacing a minimum of 6 inches of topsoil on disturbed areas, and revegetating the site to rangeland. The existing access road will not be reclaimed.

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

## PHOTOGRAPHS



**Photo 1.** View of permit sign posted at main site entrance off of Co Rd 2. A permit sign should include the permit number (already included here), the operator's name, and a statement that the permit was issued by the CO MLRB.



**Photo 2.** View looking southwest across pit from top of eastern highwall, showing slopes graded 4H:1V. Note some native grasses volunteering across slopes.





**Photo 3.** View looking west across pit from top of eastern highwall, showing slopes graded 4H:1V. Note some native grasses volunteering across slopes and pit floor.



**Photo 4.** View looking north across pit slope from top of eastern highwall, showing slopes graded 4H:1V. Note native grasses volunteering across slopes.





**Photo 5.** View looking southeast from western edge of pit floor, showing topsoil berm stored along top edge of pit walls (indicated). Note slopes graded 3H:1V or flatter and some native grasses volunteering across pit floor.



**Photo 6.** View looking north from top of eastern highwall, showing topsoil stockpile stored above pit.





**Photo 7.** View looking east from site entrance, showing waste rock stockpile (indicated) stored just south of access road.



**Photo 8.** View looking northwest from top of eastern highwall, showing portion of pit in reclamation. Note slopes graded 3H:1V or flatter and vegetative cover establishing throughout. Portion of slope in foreground will most likely require additional grading and seeding due to erosion and lack of vegetative cover.





**Photo 9.** View looking northeast from pit entrance, showing portion of pit in reclamation. Note slopes graded 3H:1V or flatter and vegetative cover establishing throughout.



**Photo 10.** View looking east from access road, showing central portion of eastern highwall where erosional damage appears to be more significant (possibly due to slightly steeper slopes and less vegetative cover).

**Inspection Contact Address**

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Enclosure(s): Google Earth image of site

CC: Cindy Parsons  
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Springfield, CO 81073  
  
Wally Erickson, DRMS



# M1978-225L / McVey Pit / Baca County

Red Line = 160 acres = Approved Permit Area

Blue Line = 16.5 acres = Disturbed Area (as of 11/19/2014 inspection)

M1978-225L

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