



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: Re-Open Gravel Pit #18 Pipe Springs Ranch LLC	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-2003-019	MINERAL: Sand and gravel	COUNTY: Baca
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	INSPECTOR(S): Amy Eschberger	INSP. DATE: November 19, 2014	INSP. TIME: 12:00
OPERATOR: Baca County	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: James Adams and Kurt Eskew	TYPE OF OPERATION: 112c - Construction Regular Operation	

REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: None	BOND AMOUNT: NA
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None
WEATHER: Clear	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: <i>Amy Eschberger</i>	SIGNATURE DATE: July 2, 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 Re-Open Gravel Pit #18 Pipe Springs Ranch LLC pit (Permit No. M-2003-019) 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 during the inspection. This site is located approximately 22 miles north of Pritchett, adjacent to the northern county line. The affected land is owned by Pipe Springs Ranch, LLC. The site is situated along the side slope of a small rise and generally runs from the ridgeline to the toe of the slope. The site can be accessed by Rd 9 which runs north off of Co Rd Ww and dead-ends at the pit. The approved post-mining land use is rangeland.

This is a 112c operation permitted for 20 acres to mine sand and gravel for county road surfacing. The maximum mining depth is approximately 25 feet. The maximum allowed disturbed acreage at any time is the entire permitted area of 20 acres. The operation maintains 3H:1V slopes as material is extracted. Mining began in the southeastern portion of the permit area and will continue northward and westward.

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 entrance off of Co Rd Ww (**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 properly delineated with metal posts (**Photo 2**). The mine was not active at the time of the inspection, and no equipment was present on site. However, the county has been processing and hauling off from stockpiled material every year, which is in compliance with its intermittent status. According to aerial images shown in Google Earth, this site was last expanded (northward) at some time between late-2012 and mid-2014. Mr. Adams and Mr. Eskew indicated that the county intends to mine the pit again soon.

The Division estimates that approximately 10.5 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 4H:1V or flatter (**Photos 3-7**), topsoil berms stored along the top edges of the pit walls (**Photo 8**), a material stockpile stored at the southeastern edge of the pit near the entrance (**Photo 9**), and a waste rock stockpile stored at the southern edge of the pit (**Photo 10**). All stockpiles and pit slopes appeared to be stable. Some warm-season perennial grasses were volunteering into the pit, mainly along the pit walls. Russian thistle was also present, which is very common throughout this region. Some minor erosional damage including several rills and some small gullies were present along portions of the pit walls (see **Photo 7**). The Division recommends the operator monitor and repair any erosional damage in disturbed areas as necessary to help protect the stability of the pit walls.

The approved reclamation plan calls for grading all mined slopes to 3H:1V or flatter, replacing a minimum of 6 inches of topsoil on all 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. However, it should be noted that portions of the disturbed area are currently very close to the eastern and southern permit boundaries (approximately 25-30 feet in places). Therefore, the operator should be careful not to disturb land outside of these boundaries. The permit area can be expanded at any time by submitting a permit Amendment.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1. View of permit sign posted at site entrance off of Co Rd Ww. 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.

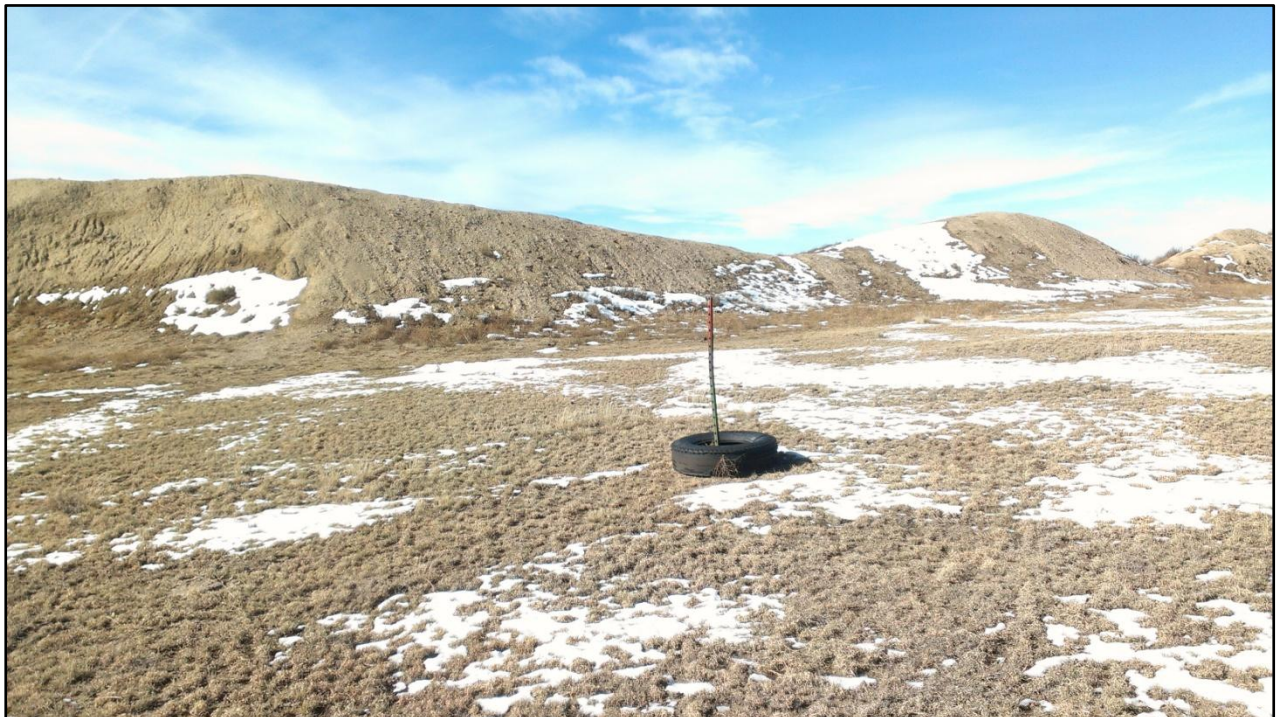


Photo 2. View of metal post marking northeastern corner of permit boundary. Topsoil berm shown in background.



Photo 3. View looking northeast from center of pit floor, showing highwalls graded mainly 4H:1V.



Photo 4. View looking northwest from center of pit floor, showing highwalls graded mainly 4H:1V.

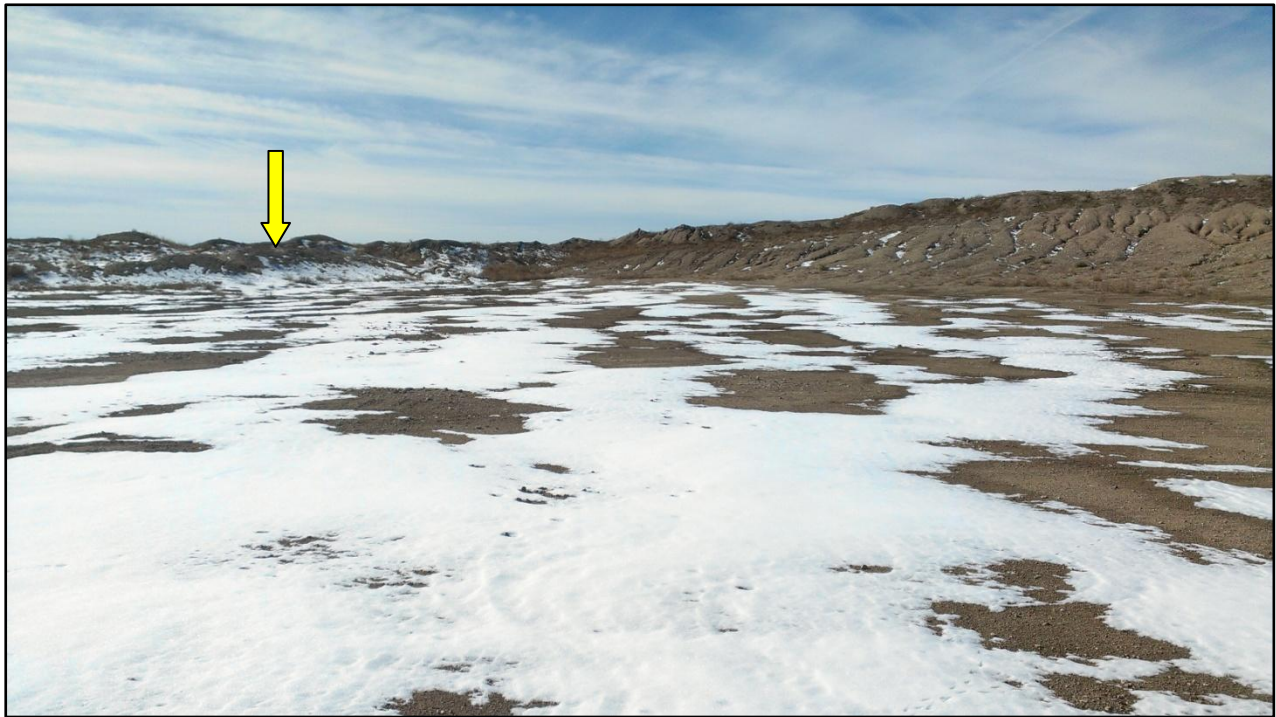


Photo 5. View looking southwest from center of pit floor, showing portion of highwall graded 3H:1V. Note gravel berm (indicated) constructed along southwestern (downgradient) edge of pit to help keep stormwater from leaving the site.



Photo 6. View looking northeast from western edge of pit, showing highwalls graded mainly 4H:1V.



Photo 7. View looking east from western edge of pit, showing highwalls graded mainly 4H:1V. Note minor erosional damage along slopes.



Photo 8. View of topsoil berm stored along top of northwestern edge of pit.



Photo 9. View looking northwest from access road, showing material stockpile (indicated) stored near pit entrance.



Photo 10. View looking west from access road, showing waste rock stockpile (indicated) stored at southern edge of pit.

Inspection Contact Address

Dean Ormiston
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

M2003-019 / ReOpen Gravel Pit #18 Pipe Springs Ranch LLC / Baca County

Red Line = 20 acres = Approved Permit Area

Blue Line = 10.5 acres = Disturbed Area (as of 11/19/2014 inspection)

