




**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> West Rifle Pit	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1981-006	<b>MINERAL:</b> Sand and gravel	<b>COUNTY:</b> Garfield
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Surety Release Inspection	<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Amy C. Yeldell	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> June 22, 2015	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 08:00
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Central Aggregates, Inc.	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Gilbert Lee	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 112c - Construction Regular Operation	

<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Surety Release Requested	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> IT.Bondcalculationtype.CD.Desc	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$40,834.00
<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> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> July 6, 2015

**The following inspection topics were identified as having Problems or Possible Violations. OPERATORS SHOULD READ THE FOLLOWING PAGES CAREFULLY IN ORDER TO ASSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE PERMIT AND APPLICABLE RULES AND REGULATIONS. If a Possible Violation is indicated, you will be notified under separate cover as to when the Mined Land Reclamation Board will consider possible enforcement action.**

**INSPECTION TOPIC:** Backfilling & Grading

**PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION:** Problem: The site is utilizing off-site fill without prior approval by the Division per 3.1.5(9) of the Rule.

**CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:** The operator shall provide a notarized affidavit, stating that the fill is, in fact, inert and addressing all requirements pursuant to Rule 3.1.5(9), which describes the intended use of inert/off-site fill by the corrective action date.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE:** 8/03/15

## **OBSERVATIONS**

This inspection was conducted by the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) in response to the request for acreage release that was submitted by the operator on December 19, 2014. In the request letter, the operator acknowledged that since it was winter, the inspection would not be conducted until spring.

Gilbert Lee, Bill Lee and Randy VanSlyk represented Central Aggregates, Inc. and accompanied Amy Yeldell of the Division on the inspection. The West Rifle Pit is a 112c permitted site. It is located west of Rifle, accessed from Highway 6. The permitted acreage is 41.59 acres, it is unclear as to the exact amount of acreage that is being requested for release. Photographs are included in this report to illustrate some of the conditions that were observed during this inspection.

The mine identification sign and affected area boundary markers remain in place and in compliance with Rule 3.1.12. The mine identification sign is fastened to the gate at the site entrance. A fence encloses the entire permit area boundary and an offset berm exists in most areas.

The north and west shorelines were inspected for reclamation success. The difficulties of establishing vegetation was expressed by the operator, and it was noted that several attempts had been made. The site had been broadcast seed several times with little success. The last time the operator also utilized hydromulch to improve success rates. Several volunteer species helped improve reclamation success as well. The site is now stabilized with native vegetation and a density that meets the minimum requirements necessary for reclamation success. It is noted that the majority of vegetation established is not grasses species from the approved seed mix. However, this vegetation is representative to adjacent riparian areas.

In addition to the areas up for release the rest of the site was inspected. The pit is currently active and processing material. Material is being loaded into the shaker via a front end loader, and then is sorted into size classes. No material is being crushed on site. Also present on site are dump trucks, fork lift, water truck, hoe and various trailers. At the site entrance there is a main office with a load scale. There are also several other shops of various sizes located on the property. Fuel is stored in a concrete secondary containment that appears to be in good condition. Surplus equipment and material is well organized and stored neatly out of the way. Processed material is stored according to size class. Large stockpiles are stable with no evidence of erosion. Coble is bundled on pallets and arranged in rows. All topsoil is stored separately from processed materials and has been stabilized via interim reclamation seeding.

It was observed that offsite fill material was being utilized to fill in areas that had been mined where ground water was exposed. Mr. Lee explained the material was from local construction jobs and that the generators knew the requirements for inert material but that no certification beyond a verbal agreement was made with them. He said that the West Rifle Pit had an affidavit on file with the Division. At this time, the Division has no record of that file. The operator shall provide the Division with a copy of the referenced affidavit or obtain a new one addressing all requirements pursuant to Rule 3.1.5(9).

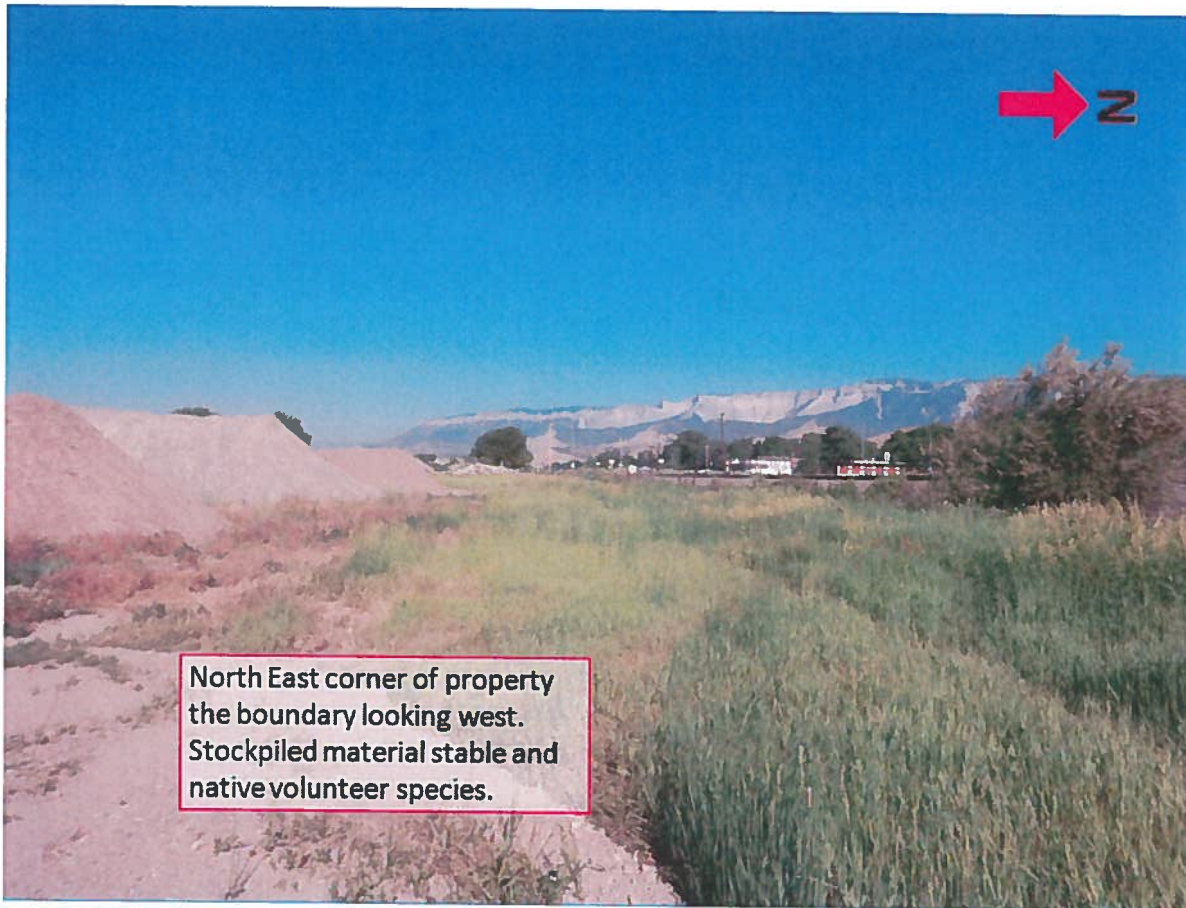
During the inspection, it was noted that weeds were present. Specific species observed were; perennial pepperweed, salt cedar (tamarix), Russian olive, thistles, Russian thistle, vineweed, common mullen, and downy brome (cheatgrass). The operator indicated that they had already sprayed several times this year and will continue to do so as needed. This demonstrates that they are actively following their weed management plan. If additional assistance is needed we encourage you to contact the Garfield County Weed Management Specialist

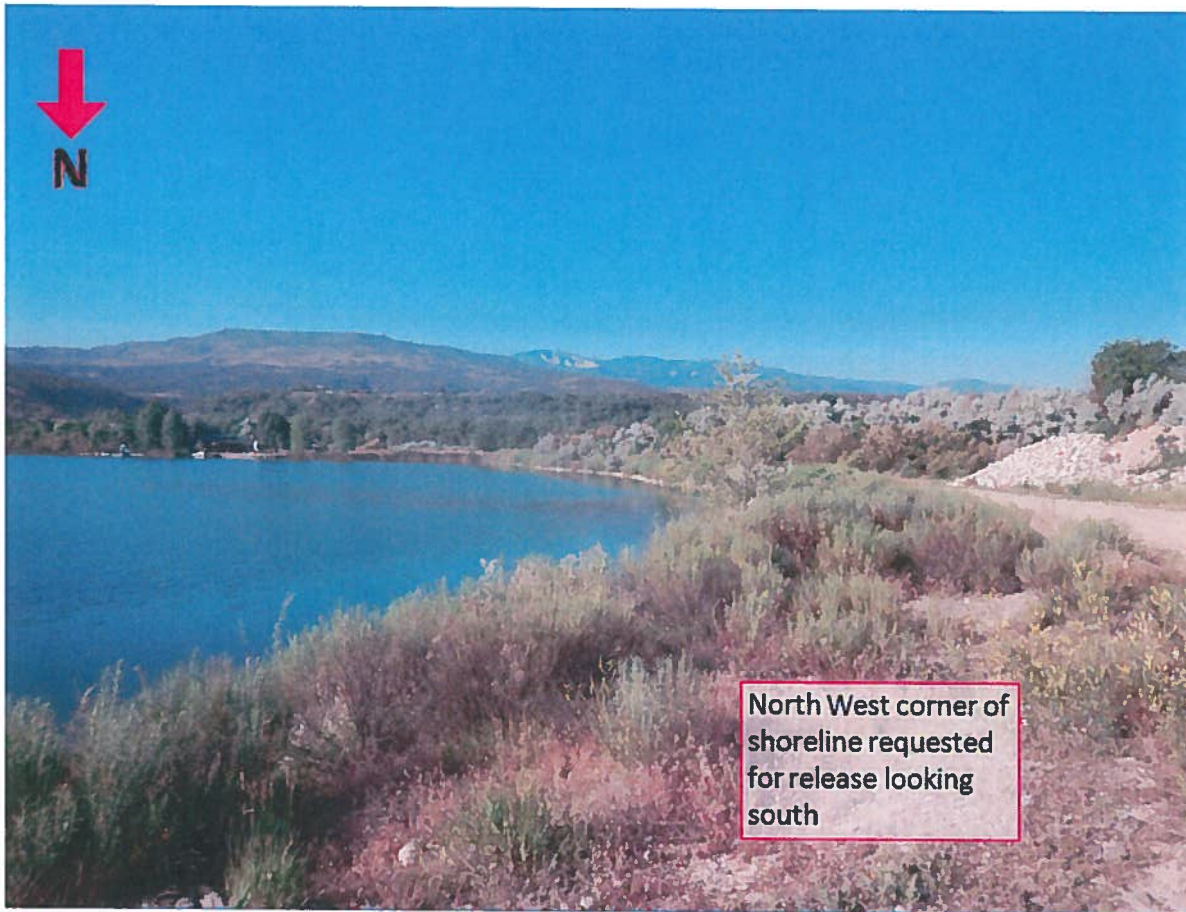
In a letter sent out June 26, 2015 the operator was notified of additional requirements needed to make a decision in addition to the extension request. If the additional information and extension is received within 60 day of the inspection then it may be used to assist the release. If not a new inspection must be conducted to complete the release process.

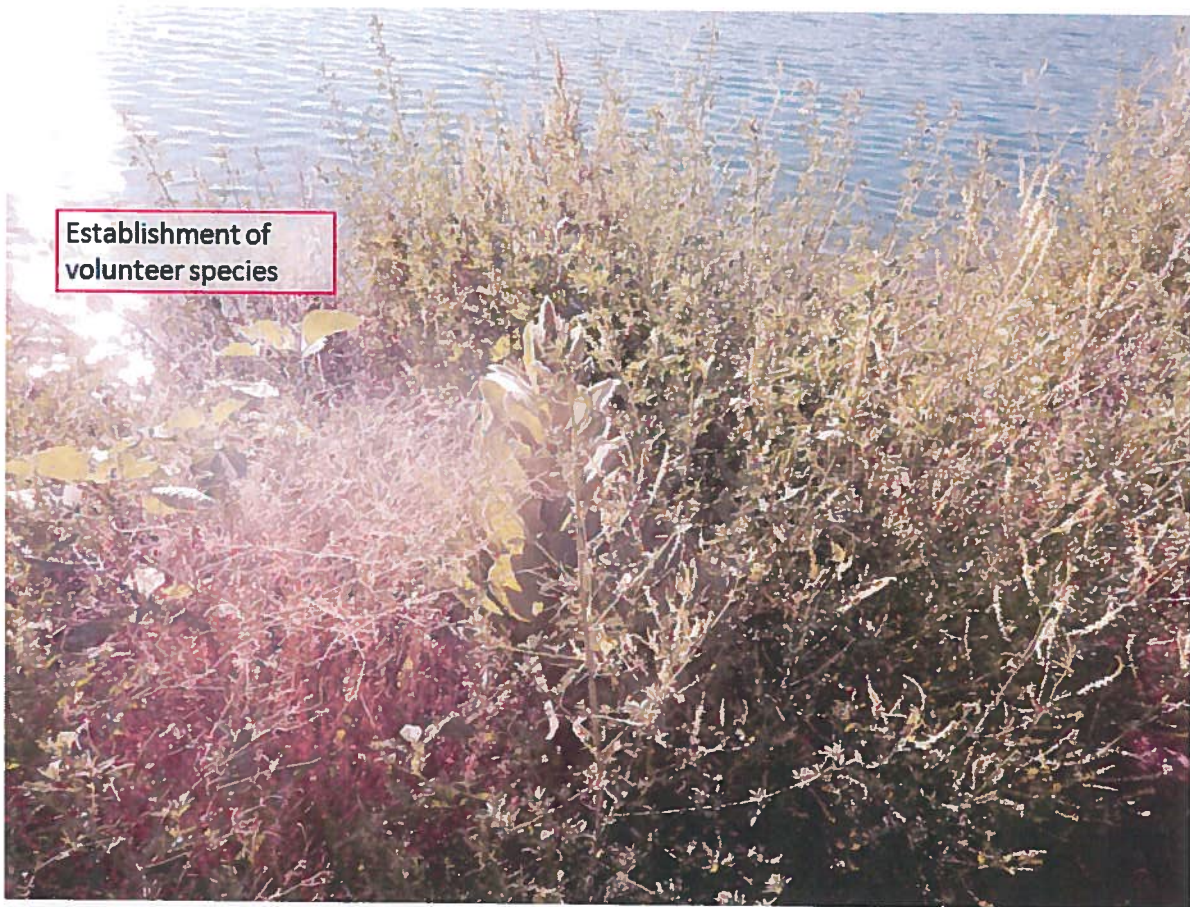
Responses to this inspection report should be directed to Amy Yeldell at the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, Grand Junction Field Office, 1010 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Room 301, Grand Junction, Colorado 81501, phone no. 970-254-8511

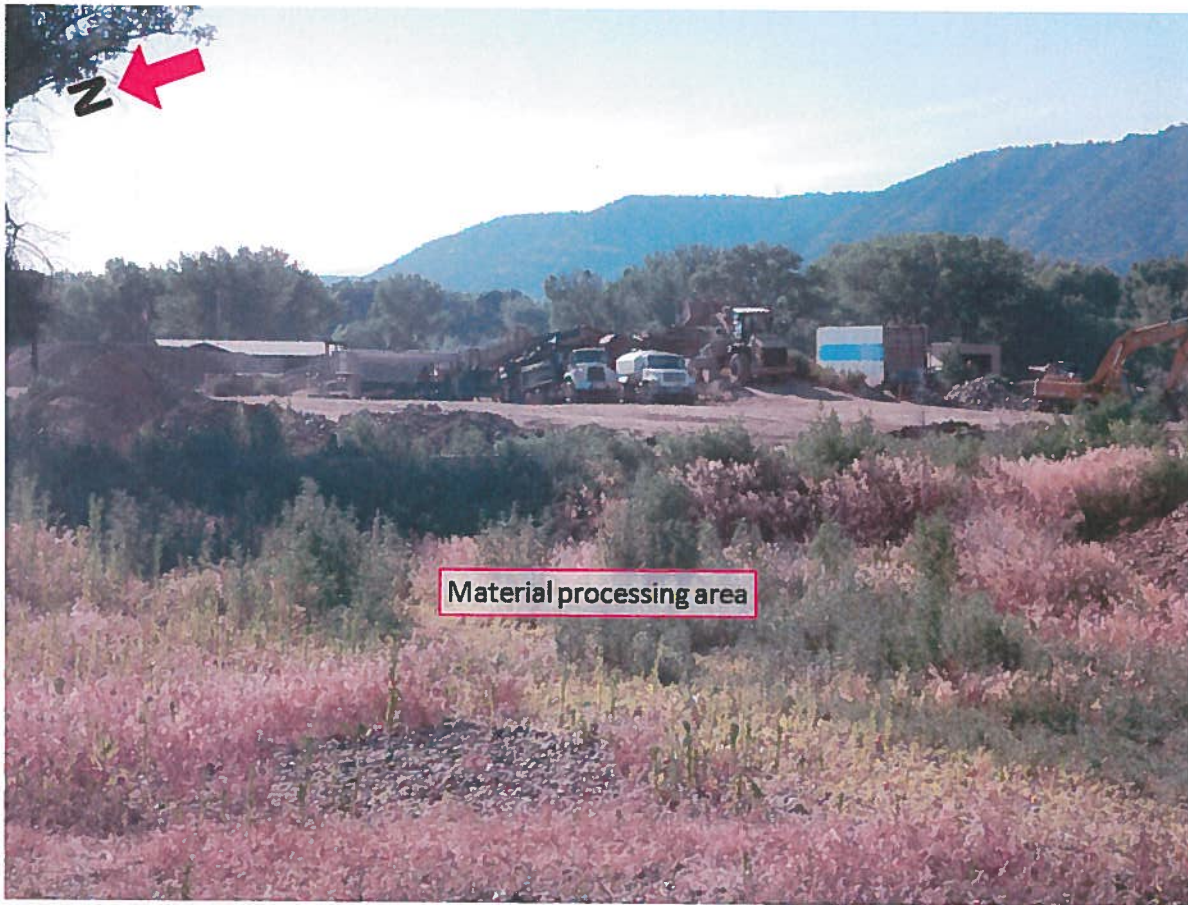
## PHOTOGRAPHS



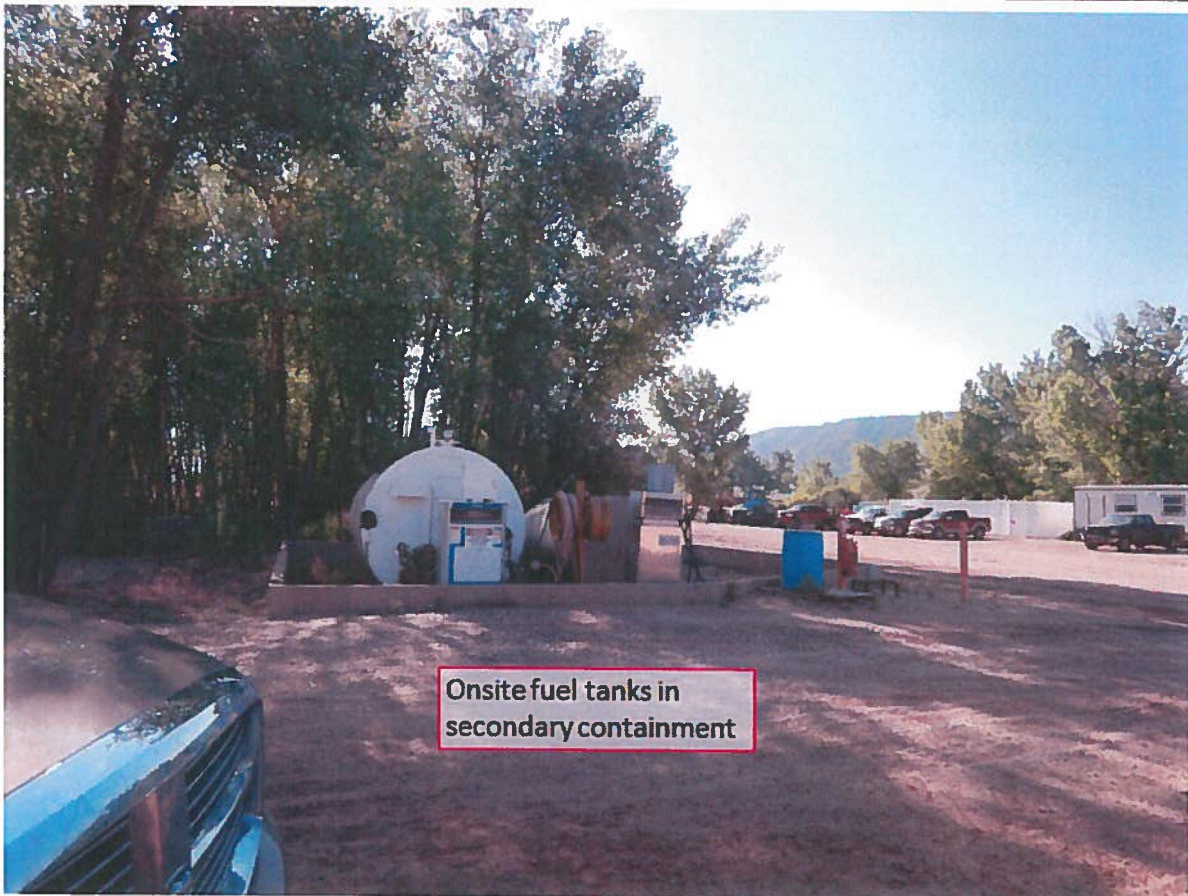




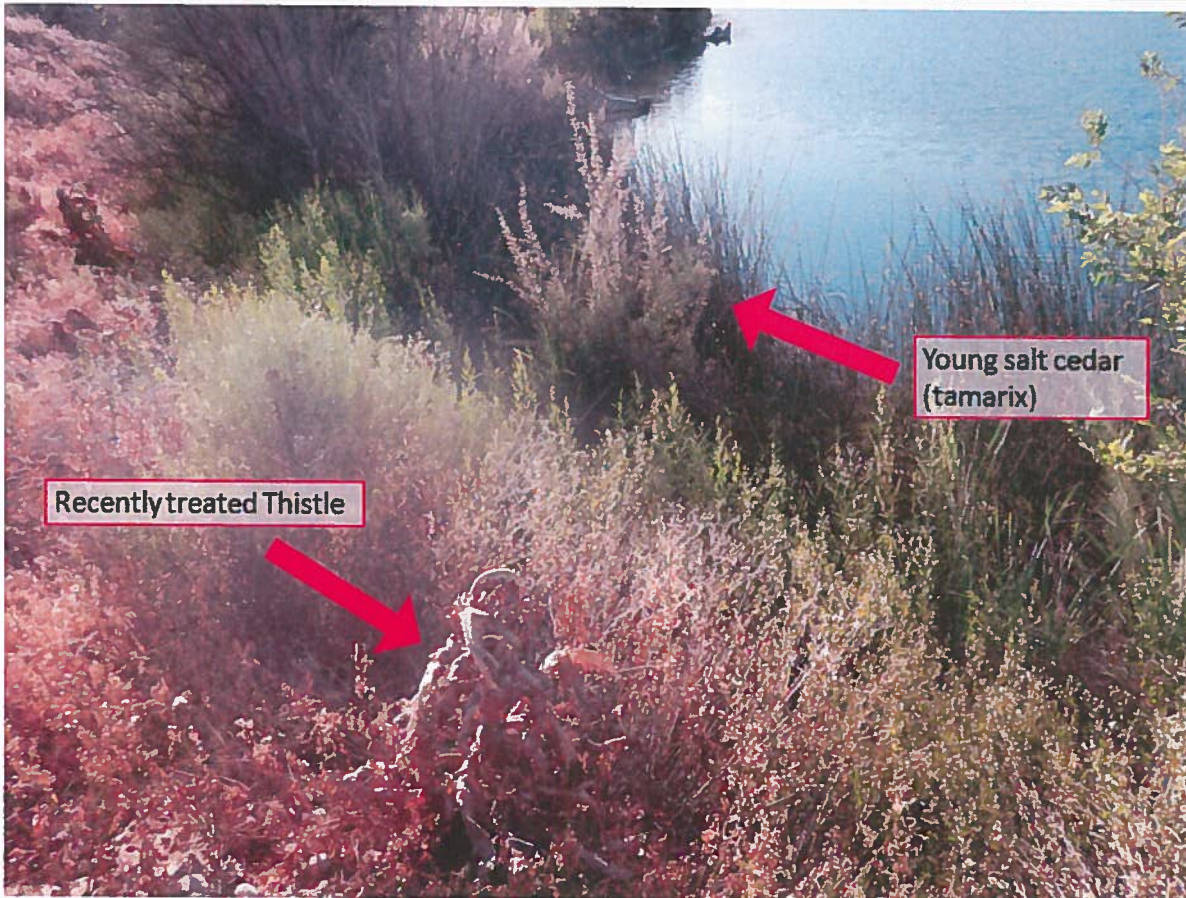
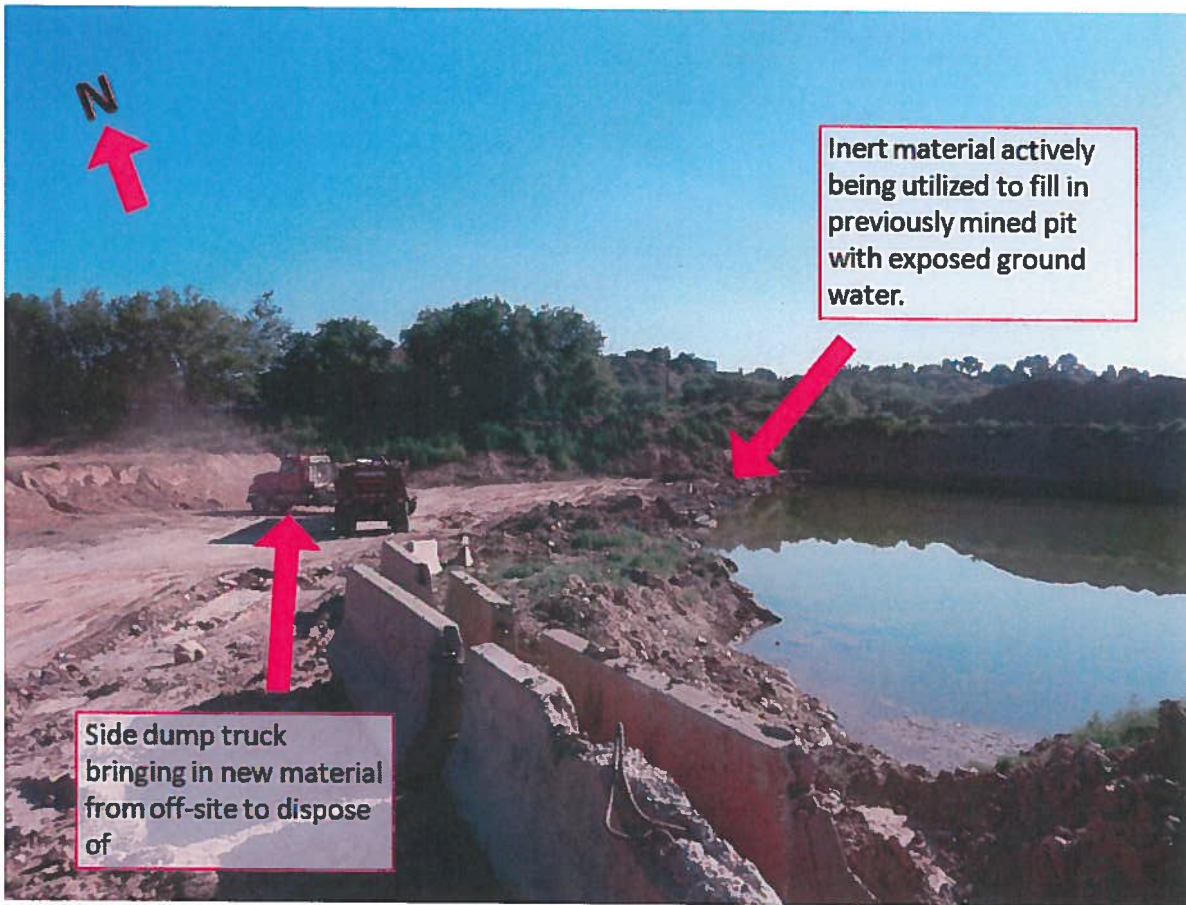




Material processing area



Onsite fuel tanks in  
secondary containment



### GENERAL INSPECTION TOPICS

The following list identifies the environmental and permit parameters inspected and gives a categorical evaluation of each

(AR) RECORDS----- <u>N</u>	(FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY----- <u>Y</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>Y</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>Y</u>	(BG) BACKFILL & GRADING----- <u>PB</u>	(EX) EXPLOSIVES----- <u>NA</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- <u>Y</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>Y</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>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>N</u>

Y = Inspected and found in compliance / N = Not inspected / NA = Not applicable to this operation / PB = Problem cited / PV = Possible violation cited

#### Inspection Contact Address

Gilbert Lee  
Central Aggregates, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1877  
Rifle, CO 81650

Enclosure

CC:

Russ Means, Senior EPS / Field Office Supervisor, Grand Junction DRMS  
Stephanie Mitchell, EPS, Grand Junction DRMS