

July 16, 2015



**RECEIVED**  
JUL 20 2015  
GRAND JUNCTION FIELD OFFICE  
DIVISION OF  
RECLAMATION MINING & SAFETY

Ms. Stephanie Mitchell  
DRMS, Grand Junction Office  
101 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 301  
Grand Junction, CO 81501

Re: Response and update per July 6 Notice on inspection issues, Permit M-2007-030, City of Rifle Material Resource Area

Dear Ms. Mitchell,

Thank you for your notice on the previous inspection from February 11, 2014. As you noted in the letter, gullies and weeds, in particular Kochia, were evident on site. Today, however, the site has become re-activated as above the gravel pit area we are constructing our new water treatment facility. Earthwork is taking place over most of the site including the gravel pit and much of the gullies and weeds have been remedied simply due to the site work.

It is anticipated this activity will continue into early 2017, impacting by disturbance, staging, soil relocation the general resource pit area. After which time we again anticipate the site going into stockpile/dormant status and we certainly understand an inspection for stabilized conditions and addressing potential weed issues. We hope this provides the necessary information as required.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Rick L. Barth".

Rick L. Barth, P.E.  
City Engineer, Rifle, CO 81650  
970-665-6559

Cc: Russ Means, Senior EPS, Grand Junction DRMS

July 6, 2015

Rod Hamilton  
Public Works Director  
City of Rifle  
202 Railroad Avenue  
Rifle, CO 81650



**COLORADO**

Division of Reclamation,  
Mining and Safety

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215  
Denver, CO 80203

***RE: City of Rifle Material resource Area, Permit No. M-2007-030, Unresolved Problem(s) Noted in a Past Inspection Report***

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

Please see the enclosed inspection report for the above noted mine site, issued as a result of a past inspection of this site on February 11, 2014.

According to records kept by the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, some problems noted in the inspection report have not been corrected. If the problems have already been corrected please submit documentation of the corrective actions to our office.

To avoid potential future enforcement actions for non-compliance with State Statutes, Rules and Regulations, and/or conditions specified in your permit for this site, you must submit compliance documentation with the corrective actions specified for each of the indicated problems by **Friday, July 31, 2015**.

If you require additional information, or have questions or concerns, please contact me at the Division's Grand Junction Field Office.

Sincerely,

**Amy Yeldell**

Environmental Protection Specialist  
Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety  
Phone: (970) 254-8511  
Fax: (970) 241-1516

Cc:

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





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: City of Rifle Material Resource Area	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-2007-030	MINERAL: Sand and gravel	COUNTY: Garfield
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	INSPECTOR(S): Stephanie J. Mitchell	INSP. DATE: February 11, 2014	INSP. TIME: 13:00
OPERATOR: City of Rifle	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Dusty Hoaglund	TYPE OF OPERATION: 110c - Construction Limited Impact	
REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: None	BOND AMOUNT: \$0.00	
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None	
WEATHER: Clear	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: February 13, 2014	

**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: Erosion gullies and ruts were observed on-site. This is a problem at this time for failure to protect the affected land from erosion pursuant to C.R.S. 34-32.5-116 (4) (j).

**CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:** The operator shall provide photo documentation to the Division verifying erosion gullies and ruts have been repaired, and that the site has have been reconstructed and stabilized to prevent erosion damage by the corrective action date.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE:** 5/14/14

**INSPECTION TOPIC:** Revegetation

**PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION:** Problem: There are state-listed noxious weeds present on site. This is a problem for failure to employ weed control methods for state listed noxious weed species within the permitted area, and to reduce the spread of weeds to nearby areas as required by Section 3.1.10 (6) of the rule.

**CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:** Implement approved weed control plan and provide proof to the Division that this has been done. If a weed control plan is not already in place, the operator shall develop a weed control and management plan in accordance with Section 3.1.10 (6) of the Rule. This plan should be developed in consultation with the county extension agency, or weed control district office and should include specific control measures to be applied, a schedule for when control measures will be applied and a post-treatment monitoring plan. This weed control plan shall be submitted to the Division as a Technical Revision to the approved plan with the appropriate Technical Revision fee of \$216.00 by the corrective action date.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE:** 5/15/14

### OBSERVATIONS

This was a monitoring inspection of the City of Rifle Material Resource Area; M-2007-030 operated by the City of Rifle. This site is located within the city limits of Rifle, Colorado in Garfield County. I, Stephanie Mitchell of the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety conducted the inspection. Mr. Dusty Hoaglund, of the City of Rifle Operations and Maintenance accompanied me on the inspection.

This is a 9.90 acre 110c mining operation for sand and gravel. A mine identification sign was in place at the entrance to the mine site. Permit boundaries were all clearly marked. There was no equipment on site. The site is stable and no disturbance was observed outside of the approved permit boundaries. The highwall is located in the eastern part of the permit area. Above the highwall, recent grading has taken place. On the recently graded slope, there is significant rilling and gullies forming. **This issue is cited as a problem at the beginning of this report and will require corrective action to be taken by the Operator.**

The site has a substantial noxious weed problem as well. In particular, Kochia, more commonly known as tumbleweed, is present all over the site. **This issue is cited as a problem at the beginning of this report and will require corrective action to be taken by the Operator.** Garfield County has a program that may be able to help the City of Rifle mitigate this problem. Steve Anthony, Vegetation Manager whose email is [santhony@garfield-county.com](mailto:santhony@garfield-county.com) may be of some assistance in resolving the noxious weed issue.

Topsoil is stockpiled at the western extent of the current disturbance and appears to be stable.

Photos showing the conditions observed during the inspection are included at the end of this report.

Responses to this inspection report should be directed to Stephanie Mitchell at the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, Grand Junction Field Office, 101 S. 3rd Street, Suite 301, Grand Junction, Colorado, 81501, phone # 970.242.5025.