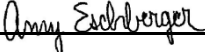




COLORADO DIVISION OF RECLAMATION, MINING AND SAFETY
MINERALS PROGRAM INSPECTION REPORT
PHONE: (303) 866-3567

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: Newsom Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-2010-083	MINERAL: Sand and gravel	COUNTY: Lincoln
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	INSPECTOR(S): Amy Eschberger	INSP. DATE: July 23, 2015	INSP. TIME: 12:45
OPERATOR: Lincoln County	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: John DeWitt	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: August 11, 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>N</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 Newsom Pit (Permit No. M-2010-083) conducted by Amy Eschberger of the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division). Mr. John DeWitt represented the operator, Lincoln County for the inspection. The site is located approximately 13 miles northeast of Limon, CO, on land owned by Kyle and Anna Newsom. Access to the site is from the northwest off of Co Rd 24. The approved post-mining land use is rangeland. It should be noted that the name of this pit was recently changed from Burgess Pit to Newsom Pit, as of 05/13/2015.

This is a 110c in-stream mining operation permitted for 9.43 acres to mine sand and gravel from the Arikaree River bed and adjacent areas for use in county road construction and maintenance (see enclosed Google Earth image of site). The maximum mining depth is approximately 2-3 feet in the riverbed, and 10-12 feet in the area adjacent to the riverbed. The operation excavates material from the dry riverbed, and then allows it to replenish during heavy rain events. The river is dry throughout most of the year, but flows east when carrying water. Mining began in the southern portion of the site and is proceeding northward and eastward. Mined material is stored in the loading/mining area located on the convex side of the river bend.

The original approved permit had the operation accessing the pit from the southwest and leaving the haul road after reclamation. As of the Technical Revision (TR-02) approved on 05/12/2015, the operation will access the pit from the northwest via an existing ranch road. The Division received with TR-02 a letter from the landowner authorizing the operation to use the alternate access road and requesting that the road remain after reclamation. TR-02 also updated the mining plan map and reclamation plan map to more accurately define the permit boundary with GPS coordinates. This is part of the county's ongoing efforts to provide the Division with more accurate permit boundary maps for their permitted sites, particularly the older permits for which the Division typically has very poor maps on file.

At the time of the inspection, the weather was clear, warm and sunny. A permit sign was posted at the main entrance to the site off of Co Rd 24 (**Photo 1**). The permit boundary was clearly delineated with metal stakes (**Photo 2**). The site was not active during the inspection, and no equipment was stored on site. However, the county extracts and/or hauls material off site every year, which is in compliance with its intermittent status. The river was dry during the inspection (**Photo 3**). However, some water was pooled in the southern edge of the pit from a recent storm event (**Photo 4**). A material stockpile was stored west of the active pit and appeared to be stable (**Photo 5**). A smaller gravel stockpile was stored south of the larger stockpile (**Photo 6**). This stockpile may remain after reclamation for use by the landowner. A topsoil stockpile was stored along the northern edge of the active pit, and appeared to be stable with vegetative cover (**Photo 7**). The pit had an average depth of approximately 5 feet, with slopes of mainly 3H:1V or flatter (**Photos 8-10**), except for the southern wall, which had slopes of approximately 2H:1V (shown in **Photos 4 and 9**). Native grasses and forbs have volunteered across most of the site. The area located just east of the pit (**Photo 11**) and the northern portion of the permit area (located north of the river; **Photo 12**) appeared to be undisturbed by this operation. The riverbed and banks appeared to be stable. No problems with state-listed noxious weed species were observed.

The approved reclamation plan for this site includes removing all stockpiles (except the small one that may remain for use by the landowner), grading all slopes to 3H:1V or flatter, replacing any existing overburden in the pit, replacing a minimum depth of 6 inches of topsoil on disturbed areas, and revegetating the site using a rangeland seed mixture recommended by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

No problems were observed during the inspection.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1. View of permit sign posted at main site entrance off of Co Rd 24.



Photo 2. View looking west, showing northwestern permit boundary marker (circled).



Photo 3. View looking northeast, showing river was dry during inspection.



Photo 4. View looking west from southeastern edge of pit, showing some water pooled on pit floor from recent rain event. Note southern pit wall has 2H:1V slope.



Photo 5. View of material stockpile stored at southwestern edge of pit.



Photo 6. View of small gravel stockpile that may remain after reclamation for use by landowner.

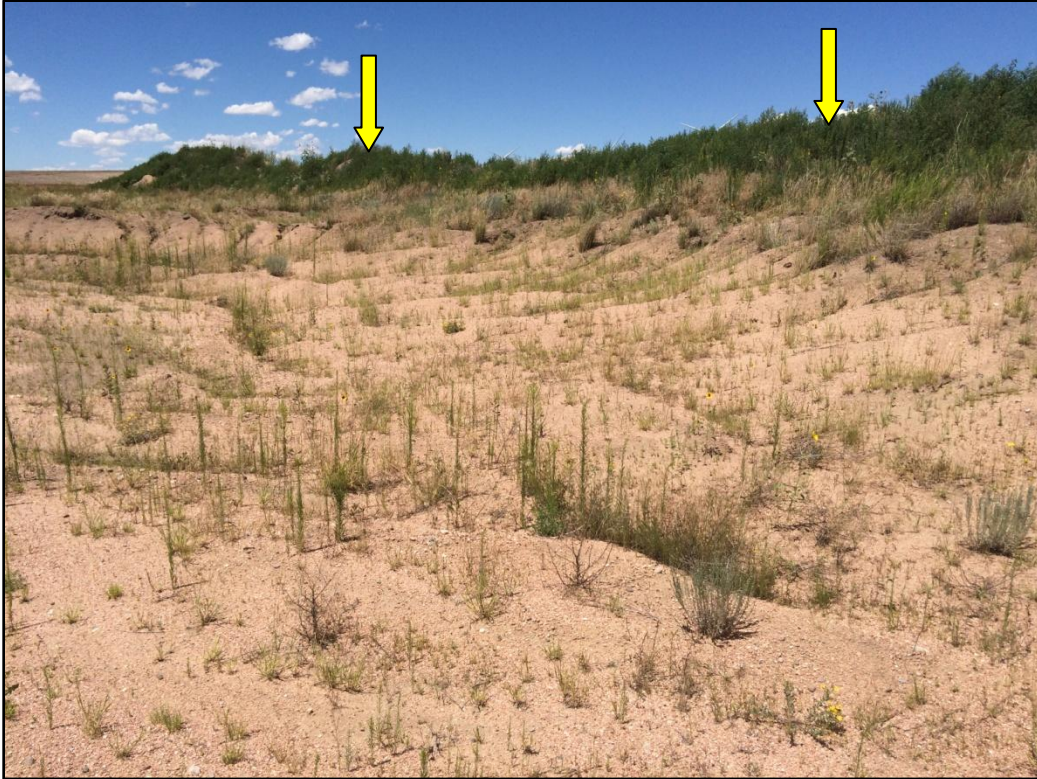


Photo 7. View of topsoil stockpile stored along northern edge of pit (indicated), stable with vegetative cover.



Photo 8. View looking northeast across pit, showing mined walls with slopes of 3H:1V or flatter. Note native grasses and forbs volunteering across site.



Photo 9. View looking southeast across pit, showing mined walls with slopes of 3H:1V or flatter, except southern wall (in background) with 2H:1V slope. Note native grasses and forbs volunteering across site.



Photo 10. View looking north across eastern pit wall, showing slopes of 3H:1V or flatter. Note native grasses and forbs volunteering across site.



Photo 11. View looking southeast across undisturbed area just east of active pit.



Photo 12. View looking northwest from north of active pit, showing part of undisturbed area in northern portion of permit area (north of river).

Inspection Contact Address

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Lincoln County
P.O. Box 39
Hugo, CO 80821

Enclosure(s): Google Earth image of site

CC: Wally Erickson, DRMS

M-2010-083 / Newsom Pit / Lincoln County

Red Line = 9.43 acres = Approved Permit Area

M2010-083

