



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: Windy Ridge Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-2003-052	MINERAL: Sand and gravel	COUNTY: Prowers
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	INSPECTOR(S): Amy Eschberger	INSP. DATE: April 9, 2015	INSP. TIME: 15:00
OPERATOR: Carder, Inc.	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Ron Peterson	TYPE OF OPERATION: 112c - Construction Regular Operation	

REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: Complete Bond	BOND AMOUNT: \$33,000.00
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None
WEATHER: Clear	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: <i>Amy Eschberger</i>	SIGNATURE DATE: September 3, 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>Y</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>	(SW) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>Y</u>	(CI) 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 Windy Ridge Pit (Permit No. M-2003-052) conducted by Amy Eschberger and Tony Waldron of the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division). Mr. Ron Peterson represented the operator, Carder, Inc. during the inspection. This site is located approximately 30 miles southwest from Lamar, CO, in the far southwestern portion of Prowers County. The site can be accessed via a dirt private road that runs west off of Co Rd 5.5 near the Emick family ranch house. The affected land is owned by Windy Ridge, LLC (Robert Emick). The approved post-mining land use is rangeland.

This is a 112c operation permitted for 320 acres to mine sand and gravel for use in road construction and maintenance. Initially, the mined material was used to construct access roads and pads for the 108 wind turbines that were constructed in the area in the early 2000's through the Colorado Green Wind Power Project. Mining began in an old pre-law gravel pit in the eastern portion of the permit area, and will continue westward. The maximum mining depth is approximately 15 feet. Mined material is processed on site with portable crushing and screening equipment. The approved maximum allowed disturbed acreage at any time is 20 acres.

At the time of the inspection, the weather was partly cloudy, cool and windy, and the ground was dry. A permit identification sign was posted at the gated entrance to the site (**Photo 1**). The permit boundary was adequately delineated. The mine was not active during the inspection. However, a small dozer and a screener were stored on site. A few small material stockpiles were stored on the pit floor. Although this pit has not been mined since 2012, Mr. Peterson indicated that some hauling off from stockpiled material occurs every year. The operator should be aware that if mining activities (e.g., extracting, processing and/or hauling off mined material) do not occur every year, the operator is required to either begin final reclamation of the site, or file for temporary cessation. If mining is expected to continue in the future, then filing for temporary cessation would allow for a 5-year period of inactivity.

Currently, only a small portion of the permit area near the eastern boundary has been disturbed. The Division estimates this disturbance to be approximately 12 acres in size (see enclosed Google Earth image), which is well within the maximum allowed 20 acres. The disturbed area includes a pit (**Photo 2**) with a west-facing highwall that is approximately 10 feet in height and 600 feet in length with slope gradients of near vertical (**Photo 3**), a mined wall along the northeastern edge of the pit which has been graded to slopes of approximately 4H:1V (**Photo 4**), a few material stockpiles on the pit floor (**Photo 5**), and topsoil berms stored above the pit, east of the disturbance (**Photo 6**). The topsoil stockpiles appeared to be stable with vegetative cover. Native grasses and yucca are volunteering across much of the disturbed area. Very few weeds were observed in the permit area. The approved reclamation plan calls for grading all mined slopes to 3H:1V or flatter, replacing topsoil on disturbed areas at a minimum depth of four inches, and revegetating the site to rangeland. There are a few existing ranch roads traversing the site which are being used or will be used at some point by the operation. At a minimum, the primary ranch road that runs east-west across the northern edge of the site will remain after reclamation.

After conducting the inspection, the Division and Mr. Peterson met with Mr. Greg Emick at the nearby ranch house. There was some discussion about transferring the permit over to the Emicks in the near future. After the inspection, a Succession of Operators application (Revision No. SO-01) was submitted to the Division on August 18, 2015 to transfer the permit to J.E. Cattle, LLC (Justin Emick). After conducting this inspection, the Division found the currently held bond of \$33,000.00 to be adequate to reclaim existing disturbance. Therefore, the permit transfer can be approved once the successor operator submits a properly executed financial warranty for this amount.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1. View of permit identification sign posted at gated entrance to site.



Photo 2. View looking southwest across pit floor from access road. Wind turbines shown in distance are located south of permit area.



Photo 3. View looking southeast from access road at pit highwall with slope gradients of near vertical.



Photo 4. View looking north from access road at mined slope along northeastern edge of pit that was graded to approximately 4H:1V.



Photo 5. View looking west from access road, showing a few of the small material stockpiles stored on the pit floor. Also note presence of small dozer and screener.



Photo 6. View looking southwest from east of pit, showing topsoil berm (indicated) stable with vegetative cover.

Inspection Contact Address

Ron Peterson
Carder, Inc.
P.O. Box 732
Lamar, CO 81052

Enclosure(s): Google Earth image of site with Division markings

CC: Justin Emick
J.E. Cattle, LLC
6424 Hwy 287
Lamar, CO 81052

Wally Erickson, DRMS

M-2003-052 / Windy Ridge Pit / Carder, Inc.

Red Line = 320 acres = Approved Permit Area

Blue Line = 11.6 acres = Disturbed Area (as of 4/9/2015 inspection)

Yellow Line = 600 ft = Approximate Length of Highwall

