



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: Yocam Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1999-060	MINERAL: Gravel	COUNTY: Las Animas
INSPECTION TYPE: Pre-Operation Inspection	INSPECTOR(S): Amy Eschberger	INSP. DATE: September 29, 2015	INSP. TIME: 16:00
OPERATOR: Las Animas County	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Clell Goode	TYPE OF OPERATION: 110c - Construction Limited Impact	

REASON FOR INSPECTION: Pre-Operation Inspection	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: None	BOND AMOUNT: \$0.00
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None
WEATHER: Cloudy	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: <i>Amy Eschberger</i>	SIGNATURE DATE: October 6, 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>	(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 pre-operation inspection of the Yocam Pit (Permit No. M-1999-060) conducted by Amy Eschberger and Wally Erickson of the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division). On 08/25/2015, the Division received a Conversion application (Revision No. CN-01) to convert the 110c permit to a 112c permit. This application is currently under review, with a decision date of 11/30/2015. Mr. Clell Goode represented the operator, Las Animas County during the inspection. The site is located approximately 28 miles northeast of Kim, Colorado. The main access to the site is from the north, off of Co Rd 70. The affected land is owned by Gary Yocam Ranch, LLC. The approved post-mining land use for the site is pastureland.

This is currently a 110c operation permitted for 9.9 acres to mine sand and gravel for use in county road construction and maintenance. The current permit area is rectangular in shape and oriented northwest-southeast. The operation began mining in the northwestern portion of the permit area and continued southeastward. The current maximum mining depth is approximately 11 feet, with very little to no overburden. Salvaged topsoil is stored at the edge of the pit. Material is processed on site as needed using mobile equipment. The ground surface on site slopes gently southwestward at a 2.5-3.0% grade toward a tributary to Two Butte Creek, which is located almost 600 feet west of the permit area. Therefore, the operator has constructed a small, low-lying earthen berm along the western perimeter of the pit to help keep sediment from leaving the site.

In the CN-01 application, the operator proposes to expand the site northeastward, increasing the permit area from 9.9 acres to 67.3 acres. The operation would continue mining the northeastern wall of the existing pit, with a new maximum mining depth of approximately 20-25 feet. The maximum disturbed area at any time will be 50 acres, including active mining areas and land in various stages of reclamation. Revisions to the reclamation plan include grading all mined slopes to 3H:1V or flatter rather than 4H:1V, and changing the post-mining land use from pastureland to rangeland. Otherwise, the approved reclamation plan will be the same, including replacing topsoil across disturbed areas at an average depth of 6-8 inches, and revegetating the site using a cover crop of oats and a rangeland seed mixture recommended by the NRCS.

The only man-made structure present within 200 feet of the proposed affected land is a small earthen dam located northwest of and partially inside of the proposed permit area (in the typically dry tributary). According to the operator, this dam was constructed by the landowner before the site was originally permitted, and is therefore not related to the operation. In reviewing historical aerial images of the site in Google Earth, the dam appears to have been present at least as early as 1998. The operator submitted a structure agreement for this dam with the CN-01 application.

At the time of the inspection, the weather was partly cloudy, cool, and breezy. No standing water was observed on site. A permit sign was posted at the main site entrance off of Co Rd 70 (**Photo 1**). This sign includes the permit number and operator name as required. To be fully compliant with Rule 3.1.12(1), the sign should also include a statement that the permit was issued by the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board. This could be abbreviated on the sign to read as "issued by CO MLRB". The corners of the current 110c permit boundary were marked with metal posts (**Photo 2**). The proposed 112c permit boundary was delineated by metal posts with orange cones on top (**Photos 3 and 4**). The mine was not active during the inspection, and no equipment was stored on site. According to the operator, the county extracts, processes, and/or hauls off material every year, which is in compliance with its intermittent status.

The Division estimates current disturbance to include approximately 5.4 acres (see enclosed Google Earth image of site). This disturbance includes a rectangular-shaped pit that is approximately 5-8 feet deep, with mined wall slope gradients of mainly 3H:1V or flatter (**Photos 5-10**). Only a small portion of the northern

mined wall had slope gradients of 1H:1V to 2H:1V (**Photo 11**). Salvaged topsoil was stockpiled at the southern edges of the pit, and appeared to be stable with vegetative growth (**Photos 12 and 13**). No mined material was stockpiled on site. Overall, the site appeared to be stable with native grasses, forbs, yucca, and some annual weeds volunteering across disturbed areas. The Division did not observe any additional structures that were unaccounted for in the CN-01 application. Co Rd 70 is located approximately 200-220 feet from the proposed northern permit boundary, and Co Rd 217.2 is located approximately 200-210 feet from the proposed eastern permit boundary. Both of these structures are owned and maintained by the operator. Vegetation of undisturbed land in the proposed expanded permit area consists primarily of buffalograss, blue grama, and sand dropseed, with some yucca, cholla cactus, prickly pear cactus, and a few scattered junipers (**Photos 14-16**).

No problems were observed during the inspection.

The Division has no major concerns with the CN-01 application. According to the operator, the last date of the required newspaper publication was on 09/29/2015. Pursuant to Rule 1.7.1(2)(a), the public comment period for a 112c application ends 20 calendar days after the last date of publication. Therefore, the earliest date the Division could approve the application would be on 10/20/2015.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1. View of permit sign posted at main site entrance off of Co Rd 70. To be fully compliant with Rule 3.1.12(1), the sign should also include a statement that the permit was issued by the CO MLRB, which could be written on the sign as “issued by CO MLRB”.



Photo 2. View of metal post marking northeast corner of 110c permit boundary. Portion of small earthen berm lining northwest permit boundary visible behind marker.



Photo 3. View of metal post (with orange cone on top) marking southwestern corner of permit boundary shared for both 110c permit and proposed 112c permit. Looking northwest across undisturbed portion of 110c permit area.



Photo 4. View of metal post (with orange cone on top) marking northeastern corner of proposed 112c permit boundary. Looking south along proposed eastern permit boundary (112c permit area at right).



Photo 5. View looking northwest across northwestern portion of 110c disturbed area from northeastern edge of disturbance. Note slopes graded 3H:1V or flatter, and site stable with volunteer vegetative cover.



Photo 6. View looking southwest across central portion of 110c disturbed area from northeastern edge of disturbance. Note slopes graded 3H:1V or flatter, and site stable with volunteer vegetative cover.



Photo 7. View looking southeast across central portion of 110c disturbed area from northeastern edge of disturbance. Note slopes graded 3H:1V or flatter, and site stable with volunteer vegetative cover. Topsoil stockpiles visible in distance.



Photo 8. View looking at central portion of northeastern mined wall. Note slopes graded 3H:1V or flatter, and site stable with volunteer vegetative cover.



Photo 9. View looking northwest across southeastern portion of 110c disturbed area from southwestern edge of disturbance. Note slopes graded 3H:1V or flatter, and site stable with volunteer vegetative cover.



Photo 10. View looking west across southeastern portion of 110c disturbed area from southeastern edge of disturbance. Note slopes graded 3H:1V or flatter, and site stable with volunteer vegetative cover.



Photo 11. View looking northeast from southern edge of disturbance, showing small portion of northeastern mined wall with slope gradients of 1H:1V to 2H:1V.



Photo 12. View of large topsoil stockpile stored at southwestern corner of disturbance that is stable with vegetative cover.



Photo 13. View of smaller topsoil stockpile stored at southeastern corner of disturbance that is stable with vegetative cover.



Photo 14. View looking east/northeast from western corner of proposed 112c permit area, showing undisturbed land to be affected by operation (located north of haul road).



Photo 15. View looking northeast from northeastern edge of 110c permit area, showing undisturbed land to be affected by operation (located east of current pit).



Photo 16. View looking north from proposed 112c southern permit boundary, showing undisturbed land to be affected by operation.

Inspection Contact Address

Phil Dorenkamp
Las Animas County
2000 N. Linden Ave.
Trinidad, CO 81082

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

CC: Wally Erickson, DRMS

M1999-060 / Yocam Pit / Las Animas County

Purple Outline = 9.9 acres = Approved 110c Permit Area
Blue Outline = 5.4 acres = Disturbed Area (as of 9/29/2015 inspection)
Red Outline = 67.3 acres = Proposed 112c Permit Area in CN-01

M1999-060



Co Rd 217.2

