




**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> Mekelburg Pit No 1	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1981-179	<b>MINERAL:</b> Sand and gravel	<b>COUNTY:</b> Yuma
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Elliott R. Russell	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> June 9, 2015	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 13:10
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Yuma County	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Kent Twiss and Matt Martin	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 112c - Construction Regular Operation	

<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Normal I&E Program	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> None	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> NA
<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> January 6, 2016

**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.**

**GENERAL INSPECTION TOPICS**

The following list identifies the environmental and permit parameters inspected

(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>NA</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>NA</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>Y</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>PB</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>Y</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>Y</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>PB</u>	(SW) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>NA</u>	(CI) COMPLETE INSP---- <u>Y</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>NA</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>NA</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>NA</u>

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

### **PROBLEMS/POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS**

**INSPECTION TOPIC:** Signs & Markers

**PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION:** Problem #1: The affected area boundary markers are missing or incorrectly placed. This is a problem for failure to maintain boundary markers around the affected area as required by Rule 3.1.12(2).

**CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:** The operator shall conduct a survey and replace the boundary markers in the correct location(s). The operator shall provide photographic proof to the Division that this has been done by the corrective action date and submit coordinates of all the boundary markers.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE:** 2/05/16

**INSPECTION TOPIC:** Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

**PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION:** Problem #2: The current mine plan needs to be updated and clarified pursuant to C.R.S. 34-32.5-112 (1)(c)(VI). The operator must provide sufficient information to describe or identify how the operator intends to conduct the operation.

**CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:** The operator shall submit a Technical Revision, with the required \$216 revision fee, to update and clarify the current approved mine plan to reflect existing and proposed activities by the corrective action date.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE:** 3/06/16

### **OBSERVATIONS**

The Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division/DRMS) conducted an inspection of the Mekelburg Pit No 1 (Permit File No. M-1981-179), a Construction Material Regular 112c Operation Reclamation Permit with 113 permitted acres and an approved post mining land use is General Agriculture. The mine is located approximately 20 miles north of Yuma, Colorado. Elliott Russell, with the Division, inspected the site. Matt Martin and Kent Twiss represented the Operator and accompanied the inspection. This inspection was carried out as a part of the Division's normal monitoring program.

At 1300 hours, the Division met Mr. Martin and Mr. Twiss at the mine site, located northwest of the intersection of County Road E and County Road 58. At the time of the inspection the temperature was hot, the sky was clear, and the ground was dry. The mine site identification sign was posted at the entrance to the site and was in compliance with Rule 3.1.12(1). The permit boundary is located 200 feet inside of the ¼ section it is located. The permit boundary was delineated by t-posts in some areas. The Division could not find the northwest or northeast boundary markers. This has been cited as problem #1 requiring the Operator to verify that the markers are in or place new markers in the correct location(s) (please see problems/possible violation section of this report for more information on this problem and its corrective action). The site was not currently being mined at the time of the inspection, but there was evidence of recent mining activity; no equipment was observed on-site.

The site consists of two excavated areas, both are located on the southern half of the permit and on the south side of a dry ephemeral creek. The most active excavated area was located in the southwest corner of the site. This area was just east of a large topsoil and overburden pile. The active pit was approximately 7 acres in size and contained a large product stockpile. The other excavated area was located just north of the active area and was adjacent to the creek. This area was about twice the size of the active pit and was lower in elevation. The eastern portion of the inactive pit included the original 112c pit from 1981. A stockpile of mined material was located on the western side of the inactive area. The operator's representatives stated that the newer pit was more favorable to the desired road base product they needed because it had more clay compare to the older pit having more sand. The site also contained a large topsoil stockpile along the eastern permit boundary and southern creek bank meander.

As a part of this inspection, the Division did a thorough review of the permit file and discovered a few items that need to be updated. First, the operator committed to not disturbing more than 10 acres at any one time. It appears that the site's disturbance has not been under 10 acres since before this amendment. The Operator will need to remove or revise this commitment. The other item of concern are the permit maps. The Division was unable to locate the mine plan or reclamation plan maps. The one map on file appears to be an Exhibit C Pre-mining Map, but is outdated and possibly incorrect. The Operator will need submit an updated Mine Plan Map in accordance with Rule 6.4.3 and Rule 6.4.4 and an updated Reclamation Plan Map in accordance with Rule 6.4.6. Additionally, both maps need to comply with the requirements of Rule 6.2.1(2). These two issues has been cited as problem #2 requiring the Operator to submit a Technical Revision (TR) to address the maximum size of the disturbance at any one time and the submittal of new maps (please see problems/possible violation section of this report for more information on this problem and its corrective action). The TR should also address the access roads and be illustrated on the Mine Plan Map.

This concludes the Division's Inspection Report; a subset of photographs taken during the time of the inspection are included below. If you need additional information or have any questions, please contact me at Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203, by telephone at **303-866-3567 x8132**, or by email at [elliott.russell@state.co.us](mailto:elliott.russell@state.co.us).

## PHOTOGRAPHS



Permit identification sign at the entrance of the access road; looking west.



Topsoil stockpiled along eastern boundary; looking north.





Older, eastern pit overview; looking northwest.



Active, western pit overview; looking east.



Great horned owl in a tree near the western permit boundary; looking northwest.

**Inspection Contact Address**

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CC: Wally Erickson; DRMS