




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: LBC Bentonite Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1977-231	MINERAL: Clay (general)	COUNTY: Fremont
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	INSPECTOR(S): Timothy A. Cazier	INSP. DATE: April 28, 2015	INSP. TIME: 16:15
OPERATOR: First Bentonite Company Colorado	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Pam Wedge	TYPE OF OPERATION: 110c - Construction Limited Impact	

REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: Complete Bond	BOND AMOUNT: \$11,100.00
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: U.S.BLM	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None
WEATHER: Clear	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: February 17, 2016

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>N</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>NA</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>NA</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>Y</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>Y</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>Y</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>Y</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 inspection was conducted as part of the regular monitoring program. The Operator (First Bentonite Company Colorado) was represented by Ms. Pamela Wedige who was present for the inspection.

The LBC Bentonite Pit site entrance is located off US 50, approximately 3.5 miles northwest of Coaldale, CO. This is a 110c clay mine. It was not operating at the time of the inspection.

Inspection:

Markers & Boundary – A permit sign was displayed at the site entrance (see **Photo 1**). Permit boundaries were marked by corner posts and recorded using a hand held GPS unit (Trimble Juno 3B). The attached inspection map shows the location of the boundary markers and the disturbed area based on the September 24, 2013 Google Earth satellite image (see **Figure 1**).

Mining Plan – Working faces were observed in general to be 3H:1V or flatter (see **Photo 2**) with a few shallow exceptions of near vertical faces, but not more than 4 to 6 feet high (see **Photo 3**). Product stockpiles (see **Photo 2**) and topsoil stockpiles (top of hill on east side) were observed.

Reclamation – Some reclamation activity including grading to 3H:1V or flatter and Ms. Wedige indicated the vegetation in the center area of the permit boundary was seeded some time ago, and was observed to be established (see **Photo 4**). The area shown in **Photo 5** may be a natural gully or may be pre-law disturbance related to the mining activity discussed in Item 2.d of the February 27, 1979 letter included in **Attachment 1**. We discussed the reclamation required for final release. Ms. Wedige was informed that all areas disturbed by mining activity need to be reclaimed by completing the following:

- 1) slopes are required to be 3H:1V or flatter,
- 2) topsoil spread on the regraded slopes (12 inches per approved reclamation plan),
- 3) reseed*, and allow vegetation to become established,
- 4) product stockpiles need to be removed,
- 5) grading must allow free drainage so as to prevent impounding stormwater.

* Please see the attached documents in **Attachment A** for the approved seed mix and other details.

Environmental – A small amount of standing water was observed in the pit (see **Photo 3**). Ms. Wedige was informed that Colorado Division of Water Resources regulation may require standing water in the pit be pumped out if it does not infiltrate or evaporate within 72 hours. No noxious weeds were observed.

Records:

- **Revisions:** **Surety Increase** (SI-01) in 1993; the permit was transferred (HR-01) from First Land Co of Howard to First Bentonite Company of Colorado in 1984.
- **Commitments/Stipulations:** No open commitments or stipulations.
- **Other Records**
 - a) The total permitted area is 8.0 acres. The Division's disturbed area estimate is approximately 3 acres (including the ~0.14 area associated with the sediment ponds). The original permit describes creating water ponds as part of the reclamation plan. It is unclear if these are the ponds outlined in green on **Figure 1**.
 - b) The previous inspection was performed on 6/13/2010. No problems were cited.

- c) The anniversary date is August 23. Annual reports and fees are current through 2015.
- d) The post-mine land use is wildlife habitat.

Bond:

The Division currently holds a \$11,100 bond. This is estimated to be adequate to reclaim the existing disturbed area.

Summary and Recommendations:

1. If the Operator wishes to begin final reclamation, the reclamation plan outlined in **Attachment A** needs to be followed for final reclamation approval by the Division. The narrow area outlined in yellow near GPS Boundary Marker-2 on **Figure 1** that starts to the southwest, then turns south may be either be a natural gulley or pre-law disturbance and therefore not required to be reclaimed by the Division.
2. No problems were observed.

Please contact Tim Cazier (303-866-3567, ext. 8169) if you have any questions regarding this report.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1. Permit identification sign.

PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)



Photo 2. View of the pit (looking NE).



Photo 3. Shallow pit "highwall" (north side looking SW).

PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)



Photo 4. Vegetated area near center of permit boundary and seeded some time ago (looking north).



Photo 5. Pre-law disturbance/natural gully on east side of permit area (looking south).

Inspection Contact Address

Pam Wedige
First Bentonite Company Colorado
215 Teller St.
Salida, CO 81201

Enclosure

EC: Wally Erickson, DRMS
DRMS file
Stephanie Carter, BLM



1ST. LAND COMPANY
of
HOWARD

P.O. Box 718
Salida, Colorado 81201

Jim Schmieding
Mined Land Reclamation
723 Centennial Building
1312 Sherman Street
Denver, Colorado, 80203

Dear Mr. Schmieding,

Attached to this note
please find our reclamation plans
for our Bentonite pits in Howard
Colorado.

RECEIVED

NOV - 7 1977

MINED LAND RECLAMATION
Colo. Dept. of Natural Resources

Yours very truly,
1ST Land Company
of Howard
by me Bill Lamberg



1ST. LAND COMPANY

of

HOWARD

P.O. Box 718

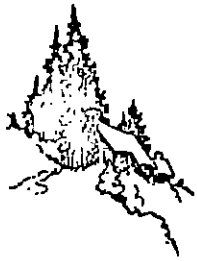
Salida, Colorado 81201

Reclamation Plan:

Our Bentonite pits located in Kerr Gulch $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of Howard, Fremont County. We have always followed a plan, to restore the land, as the Bentonite is mined out. The soil at the Bentonite pit is practically non-existent therefore, we contour the slopes to as near natural as possible. We add anti-erosion contour ditches as they are needed. We will add approximately 40 pounds available nitrogen and 40 pounds of available phosphate (F_2O_5). For seeding and Revegetation we will use the following:

- 1 pound Yellow sweet clover PLS-AC
- 3 pounds Indian rice grass PLS-AC
- 1 pound Sand drop seed PLS-AC
- 4 pounds Western wheat grass PLS-AC
- 2.5 pounds Side oaks grama PLS-AC

This mixture will be broadcast over the affected area.



1ST. LAND COMPANY
of
HOWARD
P.O. Box 718
Salida, Colorado 81201

An additional feature of our reclamation plan will be to create water ponds using our adjudgement rights to one half c.f.w. We have the only water in the area, and have already established livestock and game watering areas.

There is very little other than the above that can be done. Soil is poor and is actually sparse. Vegetation is also minimal. The Soil Conservation Service report bears this out please see copy that is your file.

Respectfully submitted,
1st Land Company of
Howard
By me Bill Sanberg



**1st Land Company
of Howard**

P. O. Box 718
Salida, Colorado 81201

RECEIVED

MAR -1 1979

RECLAMATION SECTION
Colo. Dept. of Natural Resources

February 27, 1979

James L. Schmieding
Reclamation Specialist
723 Centennial Bldg, 1313 Sherman St.
Denver, Colorado 80203

RE: your letter dated Feb. 6, 1979
LBC Bentonite Pit - File #77-231

Dear Jim:

Following is the information requested in connection with our application:

1. Mining Plan

- (a) The amount of topsoil covering the affected area: 3" to 3'
We stockpile topsoil adjacent to the working area.
- (b) Slope of the affected land will be 1 to 3.
- (c) We will mine approximately 1/2 acres each year.
- (d) We plan to mine this pit at least the balance of this century.
- (e) We will leave no high walls in the mined area.

2. Reclamation Plan

- (a) An average of 12" of topsoil will be put back in the affected area.
- (b) The slope of the reclaimed land will be 1 to 3.
- (c) We will reclaim approximately 2 acres each year.
- (d) We started mining in 1948 and reclamation has been a continuous process since that time.

3. Legal Description

- (a) This description is correct for LBC Bentonite Pit.
- (b, c & d) These descriptions indicate inactive pits owned by us.
When they are reactivated we will submit requests for the necessary permits.

4. Maps

- (a) Map is attached indicating the correct 1/4 and section.

5. Proof of Publication

We are, as per our phone conversation this morning, starting publication March 1, 1979.

There are no adjacent land owners except ourselves.

Thank you.

Bill Lamberg

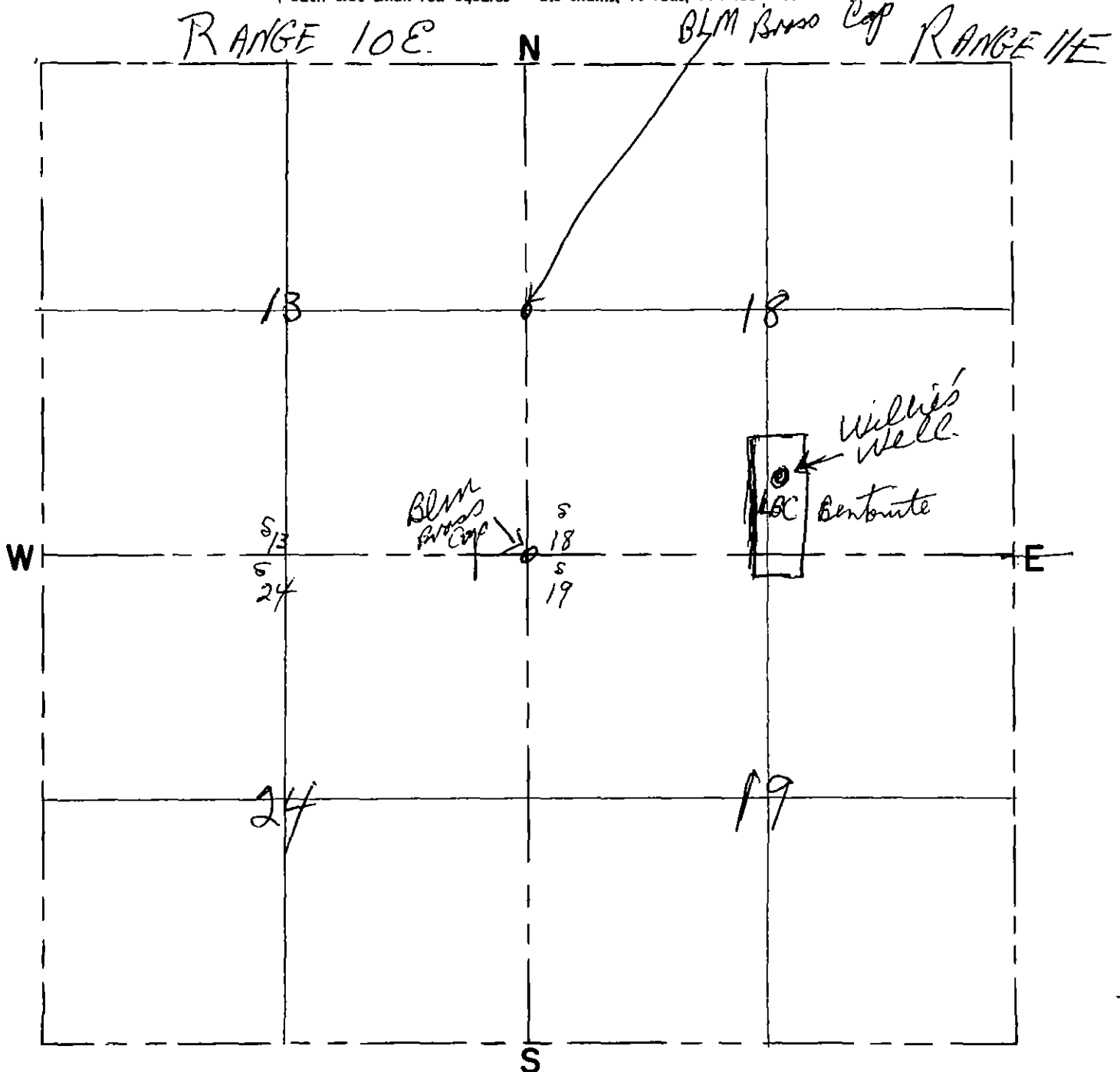
BL/sl

Enc.

Jim -
 Willie's Well on LBC Mining area
 is adjudicated to us - We use the
 water for the wild animals in
 our area -

Bill Lumberg

SCALE FOR QUARTER SECTION - Each side large blue squares = 10 chains, 40 rods, 660 feet, area of square 10 acres.
 400 Ft. = 1 inch - Each side small red squares = 2.5 chains, 10 rods, 165 feet, area of square .625 of 1 acre.



SCALE FOR QUARTER QUARTER SECTION, 200 Ft. = 1 inch. - Each side large blue squares = 5 chains, 20 rods, 330 feet, area of square 2.5 acres
 - Each side small red squares = 1.25 chains, 5 rods, 82.5 feet, area of square .15625 of 1 acre

Figure 1. M-1977-231 Inspection Map

April 28, 2015 Inspection
Google Earth Satellite image from 9/24/2013
Approximately 2.8 Acres of Disturbed Area
Sediment Pond Area = ~0.14 Acres

