



**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> Mitchell Pit #2	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1990-131	<b>MINERAL:</b> Gravel	<b>COUNTY:</b> Adams
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Tyler V. O'Donnell	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> December 7, 2015	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 12:45
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Ricky W. Mitchell	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Ricky Mitchell	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 110c - Construction Limited Impact	

<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Normal I&E Program	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> Complete Bond	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$5,000.00
<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> <i>Tyler O'Donnell</i>	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> February 18, 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>N</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>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>N</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>Y</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>Y</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>N</u>	(OD) OFF-SITE DAMAGE----- <u>Y</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>N</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 routine monitoring inspection was conducted by Tyler O'Donnell of the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division). Ricky Mitchell, the Operator, was present during the inspection. This inspection was conducted in conjunction with one other routine monitoring inspection. The Division inspected Mitchell Pit (DRMS File No. M-1987-023) this site is also owned and operated by Ricky Mitchell. These two sites share a common permit boundary.

The Mitchell Pit No. 2 is located in Adams County approximately .75 mile southeast of Bennett, Colorado. The Mitchell Pit is a 6.80-acre 110c Construction Materials Reclamation Permit. The primary commodity being mined at the site is sand and gravel. The permit was issued in February 1991. The approved post-mining land use is pastureland. The mine site was surrounded by the following land uses: residential, agricultural, and rangeland.

During the inspection, the sky was clear and the ground was dry. The site was not active during the inspection; however, it appears that the site sees frequent mining related activities. At the present time it appears that the mining operation had affected approximately 4 acres. The eastern portion of the site has been graded to 3H:1V or flatter, prior to the inspection the Operator ran a piece of farm equipment through the soil lightly cultivating the soil. Thus tilling under any vegetative cover and repairing erosion features that may have existed prior to cultivating the soil.

The Operator has expressed interest in expanding the mining operations at both pits. The Operator is considering filing a Permit Conversion Application to one of the two permits the Operator currently holds. Through the conversion process the Operator will expand the boundary of one pit to cover the boundary of the other pit, the Operator also plans on expanding the pit to the east and west, thus adding additional areas to mine. Once the Application is approved and the required financial warranty is posted the Operator can file a release request on the permit located inside of the other converted/expanded permit. The Division has had a few preliminary discussions with the Operator in the field and at the Division's office about filing a Permit Conversion Application to one of the permits owned and operated by the Operator. The Division has also had a discussion with the Town of Bennett regarding the conversion application, the Town of Bennett will have to issue some form of a land use permit because the two sites and the proposed expansion area will be located within the boundaries of the municipality.

### **Backfilling and Grading:**

The Operator has mined the pit from southeast to northwest leaving a highwall along the southern and western portions of the pit, daylighting the pit floor to the north and east. The Operator has graded the majority of the eastern portion of the pit floor to 3H:1V or flatter. There were several stockpiles of product scattered throughout the affected area. There was a highwall along the entire length of the western pit boundary. The highwall had an average height of approximately 10 feet. The highwall had a slope ranging from near vertical to 2H:1V. When completing final reclamation, the Operator will need to grade all slopes to 3H:1V or flatter to comply with the approved reclamation plan.

The Division required the Operator to provide a notice of inert fill as required by Rule 3.1.5(9). Since the previous inspection the Operator has been accepting mixed inert material. Broken up concrete, asphalt, and general fill dirt were observed during the inspection. The Operator has been recycling some of the imported inert fill and selling the material as a usable product.

Financial Warranty:

The current amount of financial warranty the Operator has on deposit with the State is \$5,000.00. The reclamation cost estimate for this site was updated during the file review for this inspection. It was determined that the current required financial warranty amount is adequate.

Hydrologic Balance:

The site daylights to the east into the floodplain of Kiowa Creek. The bottom of the pit was mostly dry, there were a few muddy patches. The Division did not observe any impounded storm water or exposed groundwater. There was no evidence of excessive erosion. There appeared to be no significant impacts to the prevailing hydrologic balance.

Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan:

The operation appeared to be following the approved mine plan. All mining activity appeared to be within the approved permit boundary.

Roads:

The access road was stable and well maintained.

Reclamation Success:

The Operator has successfully graded the eastern portions of the pit to 3H:1V or flatter. This site has not yet undergone final reclamation.

Revegetation:

There was some plant growth on the stockpiles and throughout the old western and southern mining faces. Very little vegetation growth was observed on the pit floor because the Operator has cultivated the entire pit floor. The growth observed in the disturbed area appeared to be volunteer vegetation, comprised of grasses and a few annual weeds. There were a handful of mature Russian Olive trees scattered throughout the adjoining pit. Russian Olive trees are a list B species on the Colorado Noxious Weed list. The Operator will need to take measures to prevent the spread of the trees into the Mitchell Pit No.2. The Operator is advised to continue to monitor and treat other noxious weeds as the weeds appear within the permit boundary.

Erosion/Sedimentation:

There was no evidence of excessive erosion (rills, gullies, or sediment fans).

Signs and Markers:

A mine I.D. sign was located at the entrance to the mine site. The permit boundary was marked by t-posts.

Inspection Contact Address

Ricky Mitchell  
Ricky W. Mitchell  
P.O. Box 10  
Bennett, CO 80102

CC: Wally Erickson, DRMS



## **PHOTOGRAPHS**



**Photograph 1:** Area where the Operator has accepted residential water well drilling mud. The Operator stated that this material is being dried out and being recycled and sold as a usable product.



**Photograph 2:** Southern portion of the pit, this area was mined after the permit was issued. Slopes are approximately 2H:1V, the Operator will need to graded the slopes to 3H:1V or flatter and reseed the entire area.





**Photograph 3:** Stockpiles of imported fill, the Division observed concrete, asphalt and general fill dirt.



**Photograph 4:** active mining Face along the western portion of the permitted site.