




**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> Hitch Rack Ranch	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> P-2014-016	<b>MINERAL:</b> Granite, granite gneiss	<b>COUNTY:</b> El Paso
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Timothy A. Cazier	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> April 12, 2016	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 15:30
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Transit Mix Concrete Co.	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Jerry Schnabel	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> ME - Mineral Exploration	

<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Normal I&E Program	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> Partial Bond	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$6,098.83
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> None	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None
<b>WEATHER:</b> Raining	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> April 13, 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.**

**INSPECTION TOPIC:** Revegetation

**PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION:** Problem: There are state-listed noxious weeds (notably common mullein) present on site. This is a problem for failure to employ weed control methods for state listed noxious weed species within the permitted area, and to reduce the spread of weeds to nearby areas as required by Section 3.1.10 (6) of the rule.

**CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:** The prospector shall develop a weed control and management plan in accordance with Section 3.1.10 (6) of the Rule. This plan should be developed in consultation with the county extension agency, or weed control district office and should include specific control measures to be applied, a schedule for when control measures will be applied and a post-treatment monitoring plan. This weed control plan shall be submitted to the Division as an NOI Modification to the approved plan with the appropriate NOI Modification fee of \$108.00 by the corrective action date.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE:** 5/13/16

## **OBSERVATIONS**

This was an inspection performed by the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) as part of its pre-operational inspection for the proposed Hitch Rack Quarry 112c application currently in review. Mr. Jerald Schnabel (Transit Mix) represented the Prospector and was present for the inspection. Messrs. Paul Kos, Bob Stabo and Brandon Heser were also onsite representing Transit Mix. Tim Cazier, Amy Eschberger, Wally Erickson, Tony Waldron, and Peter Hays were on site representing the Division. The Hitch Rack Ranch is accessed from Hwy 115 about 15 miles southwest of Colorado Springs, in El Paso County. The site was accessed from Hitch Rack Ranch Road.

### **Inspection:**

The Division does not require a posted sign for NOIs. All prospecting equipment (drill rig, dozer, skid steer) had been removed from the site. The borehole (B-1) observed during the previous inspection (see **Photo 1**) as well as the first borehole (see **Photo 2**) from the NOI modification (HC001-15) appeared to be sealed at the surface. Mr. Schnabel indicated all the boreholes were dry (which is supported by the logs submitted for the initial/pre-MD-01 drilling program. As such, only the surface is required to be sealed. Weather (potential for lightning) prevented the inspection of other drill pads.

### **Reclamation:**

Revegetation is proposed for the drill pads and new roads, but had not been initiated at the time of the inspection. A significant number of new common mullein were observed on this drill road (see **Photo 3**). **The amount of mullein observed is cited as a problem on page 1 of this report.**

### **File Review Notes:**

- The previous inspection was conducted on 9/18/2014.
- The proposed total disturbed area is 2.61 acres.
- Transit Mix submitted borehole abandonment reports with the annual report received by the Division on August 26, 2015. This report also indicated 8,100 feet of drill roads were created.
- A modification application was received by the Division for 2 acres of additional disturbance. This modification was approved on September 25, 2015.

### **Summary:**

The prospector is required to submit a modification to the NOI to incorporate a weed control plan as indicated on page 1 of this report.

**PHOTOGRAPHS**



Photo 1. Borehole B-1 appeared to be sealed



Photo 2. Borehole HC001-15 appeared to be sealed (looking south).

**PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)**



Photo 3. Common Mullein on B-1 Drill Road.

### GENERAL INSPECTION TOPICS

The following list identifies the environmental and permit parameters inspected and gives a categorical evaluation of each

(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>N</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>PB</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>NA</u>	(SW) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>N</u>	(CI) COMPLETE INSP---- <u>N</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>NA</u>	(OD) OFF-SITE DAMAGE----- <u>NA</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

#### Inspection Contact Address

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CC: Wally Erickson, DRMS  
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DRMS file