

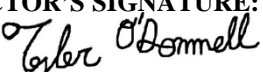
**COLORADO**Division of Reclamation,  
Mining and Safety

Department of Natural Resources

**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> Hardship Lode Quarry	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1987-027	<b>MINERAL:</b> Stone	<b>COUNTY:</b> Custer
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Tyler V. O'Donnell	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> March 15, 2016	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 09:00
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Colorado Quarries Inc	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Aaron Tezak	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 112c - Construction Regular Operation	

<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Normal I&E Program	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> Complete Bond	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$69,000.00
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> None	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> U.S.BLM
<b>WEATHER:</b> Windy	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> July 12, 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>Y</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>NA</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>Y</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>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>N</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>Y</u>	(OD) OFF-SITE DAMAGE----- <u>N</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 normal routine monitoring inspection was conducted by Tyler O'Donnell of the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division). Colorado Quarries Inc. (Operator), was represented by Aaron Tezak during the inspection. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the mineral rights owner for portions of the site, was represented by William Jenkins during the inspection.

The Hardship Lode Quarry reclamation permit is located in Custer County approximately 1.5 miles north-northeast of Westcliffe, Colorado. The Hardship Lode Quarry is a 55-acre 112c Construction Materials Reclamation Permit. The permit was issued in November 1978. The primary commodity being mined at the site is decorative rock and sand and gravel. The approved post-mining land use is rangeland.

No problems or possible violations were observed during the inspection. During the inspection, the sky was slightly overcast. There was a dusting of snow on the ground. The site was active during the inspection. The Operator was crush and stockpiling product. It appears that the site sees frequent mining activities, mostly hauling out of stockpiles. At the present time it appears that the mining operation had affected approximately 12 acres. Mining was progressing to the north, product was being stockpiled along the southern portion of the current disturbance.

### **Backfilling and Grading:**

There were several stockpiles of product scattered throughout the southern portion of the current affected land, just east of the entrance to the site. There were several small active mining faces in the northern portion of the current mining related disturbance. Many of the active mining faces have created shallow vertical highwalls. The highwalls ranged in height from about 5 to 15 feet high. The site currently daylights to the south.

### **Financial Warranty:**

The current amount of financial warranty the Operator has on deposit with the State is \$69,000. 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 bottom of the pit was mostly dry. No exposed groundwater was observed during the inspection. 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 haul road and access roads were stable and well maintained.

### **Revegetation:**

There was plant growth on the topsoil stockpiles and sparse growth throughout the rest of the affected lands. The growth in the affected area appeared to be volunteer vegetation, comprised of native vegetation, native grasses and a few annual weeds. No noxious weeds were observed during the inspection.

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 and a barbwire fence.

Topsoil:

The Operator has been stripping topsoil in advance of mining (photo 3). There were a few topsoil stockpiles along the perimeter of the current affected lands. The main topsoil stockpile is located east of the current mining related disturbance. The topsoil stockpiles have begun to fill in with volunteer vegetation. Vegetative cover on the topsoil stockpiles is composed of annual weeds and native vegetation, mostly grasses. The Operator is encouraged to establish vegetative cover on all topsoil stockpiles that remain longer than a growing season. The vegetative cover on the topsoil stockpiles will help prevent erosion.

**Inspection Contact Address**

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Colorado Quarries Inc  
270 S 15th St  
Canon City, CO 81212

cc: Wally Erickson, DRMS



## **PHOTOGRAPHS**

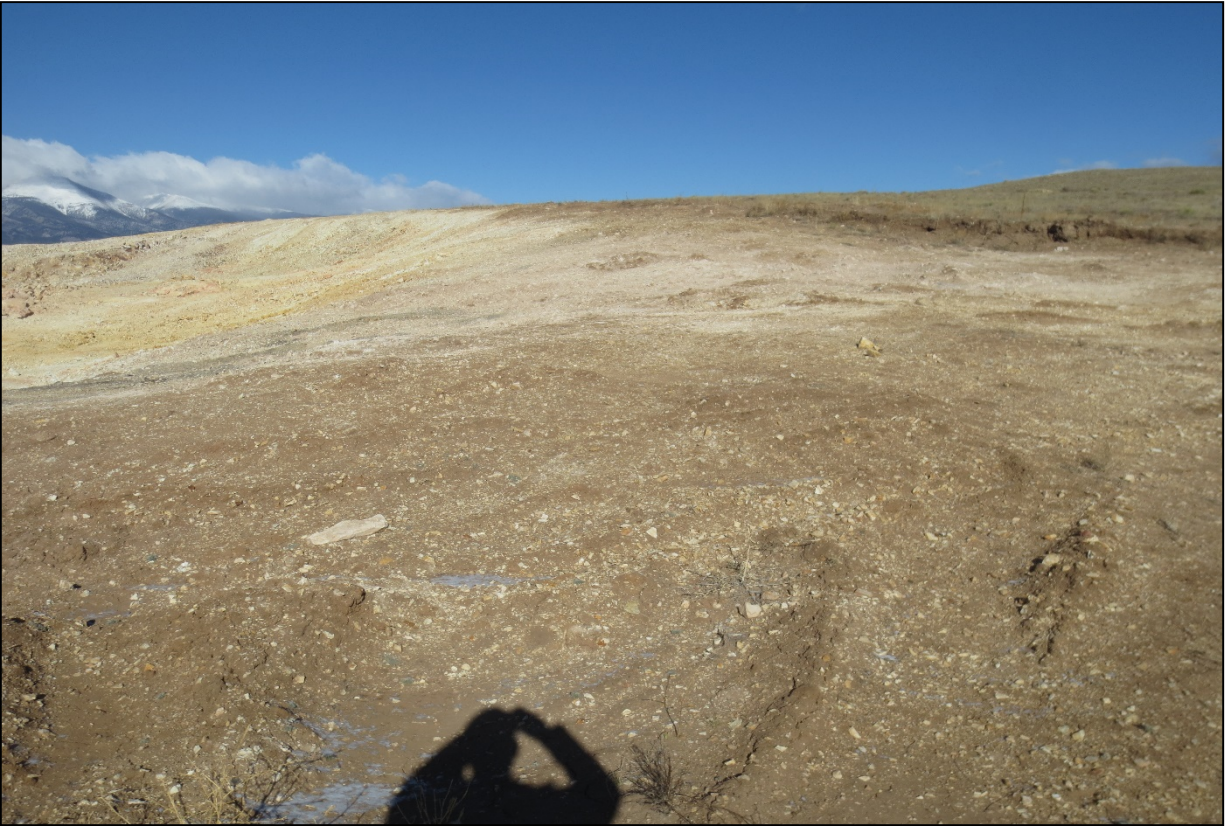


**Photo 1:** Area recently mined, the majority of this area has been sloped at 3H:1V or flatter.



**Photo 2:** Active crushing and screening operation.





**Photo 3:** Area where topsoil has been stripped in advance of mining.



**Photo 4:** Topsoil stockpile area.