


**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.

MINE NAME: Mancos Gravel Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1985-031	MINERAL: Sand and gravel	COUNTY: Montezuma
INSPECTION TYPE: Surety-Related Inspection	INSPECTOR(S): Lucas J. West	INSP. DATE: July 21, 2016	INSP. TIME: 09:45
OPERATOR: Montezuma County	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Randy Smith	TYPE OF OPERATION: 112c - Construction Regular Operation	
REASON FOR INSPECTION: Surety Related	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: None	BOND AMOUNT: \$0.00	
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None	
WEATHER: Clear	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: July 29, 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>N</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>N</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>N</u>	(BG) BACKFILL & GRADING----- <u>Y</u>	(EX) EXPLOSIVES----- <u>N</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- <u>N</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>N</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>N</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>N</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>N</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>N</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>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>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 inspection was conducted in response to the operators request for an Acreage Reduction, AR-1. The Mancos Gravel Pit is an active 112(c) located in Montezuma County. The site is located approximately 1.5 miles from Mancos, CO at approximately 7500 feet in elevation. Public access to the site is controlled by a locked gate where the access road meets County Road 42. The site consists of 50 permitted acres with nine acres currently disturbed. The pit is operated by Montezuma County, and no financial warranty is required. Six Photos accompany this report to illustrate the current site conditions.

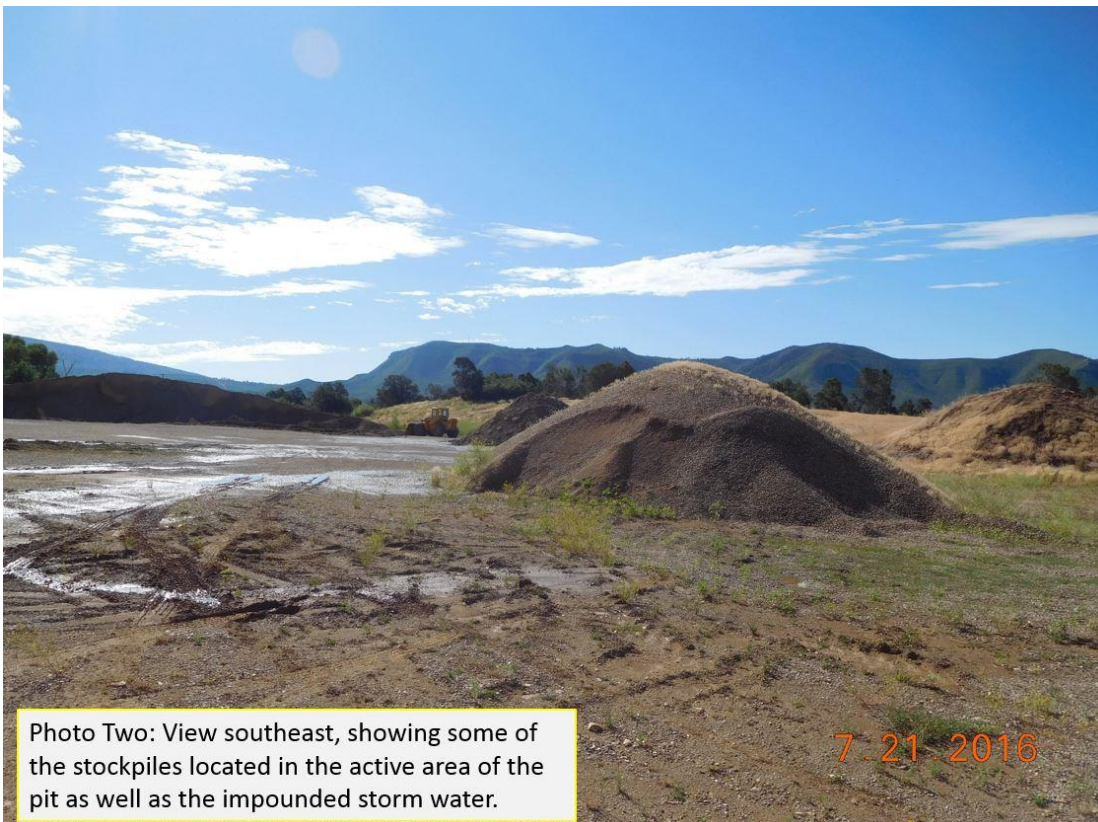
The proper mine identification signage was observed at the entrance to the site shown in Photo One. The site was not active during the inspection. This was a complete inspection of the site. Several stockpiles were observed in the active area of the pit which appeared to be stable and in good condition. The stockpiles are shown in Photo Two. The stockpiles included various sized materials, as well as separated overburden and topsoil stockpiles. The small mining face located in the northern part of the disturbed area appeared to be stable and in good condition. Residual storm water was noted on the pit floor following a precipitation event the night before the inspection.

The area to be released consisted of 13 acres of previously mined areas within the permit boundaries. Reclamation is to be completed to support a post mining land use of rangeland. All grading and earthwork appears to be stable and adequate to comply with the post mining land use. Examples of the grading can be seen in Photos Three and Four. No significant erosional features were noted throughout the site. The vegetation, while adequate in density contained several species of state listed noxious weeds. Throughout the area to be released large populations of Hoary cress, Scotch thistle, and Canada thistle were noted. All species observed are on the B list of the Noxious Weeds of Colorado list. Photos Five and Six show examples of the weeds observed on site. Of the requested area, approximately 40-50% contains state listed noxious weeds, approximately 20% of that being Hoary cress.

Due to the large presence of state listed noxious weeds, the Division has determined the areas requested to be release do not meet the reclamation standards, therefore the Division is denying the operator's request for an Acreage Reduction, AR-1. The presence of noxious weeds is not being listed as a problem at this time as the operator has indicated that chemical treatment is ongoing. The operator is encouraged to increase the frequency of monitoring and treatment of the weeds. A consultation with your county weed administrator to review your plan is advised as well. Please find the enclosed denial letter for the operator's request for AR-1.

All responses to this report should be directed to Lucas West at the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety at 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203, by phone 970-243-6368 or by email at lucas.west@state.co.us.

PHOTOGRAPHS







Inspection Contact Address

Rob Englehart
Montezuma County
1680 North Highway 145
Cortez, CO 81321

Enclosure: AR-1 Denial Letter

CC: Russ Means, Senior Environmental Protection Specialist

EC w/ enclosure: Bonnie Loving, Montezuma County Weed Inspector