



Bureau of Land Management Colorado River Valley Field Office Minerals Inspection Report

General Information	
Date	9/1/2016
Project Name	Eagle-Gypsum Mine
Operator	American Gypsum Company, LLC
Serial Number	COC-072973
Project Classification	Plan of Operations
Project Location	T4S R85W Sections 28, 29, 32 and 33; Eagle County
Inspection Purpose	Regular site inspection (per 43 CFR 3809.600 (a))
Time Period Onsite	3 hours
Attendees	Jessica Lopez Pearce, BLM Geologist
	Jared Rhea, American Gypsum Co. Mine Manager
	Brian Bloess, American Gypsum Co. EHS and HR Manager
	Travis Marshall, DRMS Environmental Protection Specialist

Summary

I conducted an inspection of the American Gypsum Company Eagle-Gypsum Mine on September 1, 2016. I visited the active mine, concurrent reclamation, mine office and equipment yard area, and haul road. There are no corrective actions needed.

New Remarks

On September 1, 2016 I inspected the American Gypsum Company Eagle-Gypsum Mine and was joined by Jared Rhea and Brian Bloess from American Gypsum Co. and Travis Marshall of DRMS. This was a routine site visit per 43 CFR 3809.600 (a). The weather was partly cloudy with temperatures in the 70's.

We started our site visit at the mine office and equipment yard area. There is an established photopoint on the east side of the mine office (Photo 1). The equipment storage area that was located to the southeast of the mine office has been reclaimed and all structures have been removed. The area has been ripped and seeded (Photo 2). A rough two-track to the mine radio antenna is still present in this reclaimed area and the antenna cable is located under this road. Jared stated that they plan to remove the cable and antenna this winter. The noxious weed Halogeton is present along the old pit highwall berm and in other surface disturbance in this area. Jared stated that he would address this and contact a weed control contractor soon.

Jared also said that American Gypsum plans to lower the elevation of the parking area that is located to the east of the mine office. It is currently approximately 10 feet higher than the mine office and equipment yard as poses a safety hazard in the winter as personnel walking from the parking lot to the mine office may slip on the icy slope.

Fluid containment within the equipment yard area appears adequate. The berms around fuel tanks are adequate and there is no evidence of leaks. I observed a 10,000-gallon diesel tank, a 300-gallon gasoline tank, and a 4,000-gallon diesel tank within a 2-foot-tall earthen berm. The 55-gallon antifreeze tank that was leaking upon my last inspection was not present. The single 55-gallon barrel of windshield washer fluid on secondary



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containment was replaced by multiple boxes containing 1-gallon jugs of windshield washer fluid on secondary containment (Photo 3). Metal sheds with double-wall containment and an earthen berm contains used oil and lubricants. The mine office and shop displayed good housekeeping practices. American Gypsum recently updated its SPCC Plan.

After visiting the old pit located on patented mining claims, we entered the new eastern pit. Mining is progressing to the south and downsection with activity also occurring in a small area on the north-central side. There is a highwall on the northern side of the active operation that is approximately 100 feet tall (Photo 4). Two rotomills were operating during my visit, as were two loaders and multiple haul trucks. A dozer was working in the concurrent reclamation area. American Gypsum plans to bring in a third rotomill with different attachments to work in the small north-central area. Operations occur 6 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday. Mining operations are occurring according to the 2002 approved Plan of Operations.

Concurrent reclamation is ongoing on the northern side of the active pit. The upper and central portion of the backfilled and reclaimed slope is steep. Grasses, small shrubs, and evidence of wildlife are present on this slope. Small shrubs and pinon and juniper seedlings are located along the top ridge of reclamation. I took photos at the north-central established photopoint and created a new photopoint on the northwest side of the reclamation (Photos 5 and 6, respectively). Future reclamation will be at a lower angle, closer to 3:1, so that equipment may safely operate up and down the slope. Future reclamation may utilize a pocking technique to establish vegetation. Concurrent reclamation will progress southward as mining continues. The reclamation plan within the 2002 approved Plan of Operations states: "Backfill material in all reclaimed slope areas will be compacted and sloped at a 2.5:1 ratio to allow for attainment of revegetation on reclaimed slopes." According to the BLM Solid Minerals Reclamation Handbook 3042-1: "Where practical, consider shaping the disturbance to a 3:1 slope (H:V) or flatter to enhance the success of revegetation" (BLM H-3042-1 Solid Mineral Reclamation Handbook, Chapter 11, Section B. Shaping, Grading, and Erosion Control).

The haul road had large berms with good crowning and drainage ditches. Dust abatement was ongoing. I observed a water truck spraying the roads during my visit (Photo 7).

A gypsum ore stockpile is located directly east of the mine entrance gate and held approximately 65,000 tons at the time of my visit. The stockpile area was designed to hold a maximum of 100,000 tons of ore. This stockpile area was approved under the 1990 Record of Decision and constructed as insurance in case the mine and haul road is inaccessible due to adverse weather or road conditions.

There was adequate signage and a gate at the entrance to the operation. For safety purposes, American Gypsum closes this gate when the mine is not in operation. The BLM provided American Gypsum with 3715 occupancy concurrence for the gate, signage, mine office, and equipment yard on August 9, 2016.

Recommended Changes to Operations or Corrective Actions Needed

- No corrective actions needed.



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Photos



Photo 1. Mine office and equipment yard photopoint panorama, looking east and south.



Photo 2. Looking southeast at reclaimed area southeast of the mine office.



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Photo 3. Looking north at fluid containment in equipment yard area.



Photo 4. Looking north at active mining operations.



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Photo 5. Looking south at active mine and east to concurrent reclamation from northwestern photopoint.



Photo 6. Looking south at active mine and concurrent reclamation from northern photopoint.



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Photo 7. Looking east at mine signage, stockpile located behind the signs, and haul road. Note water truck performing dust abatement on the haul road.
