




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: Swede Corners Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1988-087	MINERAL: Sand and gravel	COUNTY: Saguache
INSPECTION TYPE: Surety Release Inspection	INSPECTOR(S): Amy C. Yeldell	INSP. DATE: October 6, 2016	INSP. TIME: 09:00
OPERATOR: Southway Construction Company, Inc.	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Ralph Martinez	TYPE OF OPERATION: 110c - Construction Limited Impact	
REASON FOR INSPECTION: Surety Release Requested	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: None	BOND AMOUNT: \$11,270.00	
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: U.S.BLM	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None	
WEATHER: Windy	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: October 17, 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>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>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>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>N</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

OBSERVATIONS

This inspection was conducted in response to the surety release (SL-3) request submitted on September 19, 2016. The Swede Corners Pit is a 110c sand and gravel operation that consists of 9.9 acres on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Land. Ralph Martinez represented the operator and accompanied Amy Yeldell of the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) on the inspection. Rebecca Morris of the San Luis Field Office, BLM was also present at the inspection. The site is located in Saguache County approximately six miles southwest of Saguache, Colorado and is accessed from Saguache County Road T.

This site is in final reclamation. The first surety release request was submitted in 2008. Previous request for this site have been denied to a lack of complete reclamation, specifically the access road and noxious weeds.

The mine identification sign and affected area boundary markers are in place and in compliance with Rule 3.1.12. The permit boundary is delineated by t-posts. The mine sign was posted along the reclaimed access road.

The pit is dry, no exposed water remains. No equipment, fuel or structures were present. All stockpiles have been removed. No topsoil piles remain. The excavated pit area is well reclaimed. All slopes have been properly graded and are free of erosion. Vegetation is well established on the pit slopes and floor. Vegetation includes a variety shrubs and grasses. The vegetation density is comparable to adjacent undisturbed areas. There are some areas where residual gravel is present at the surface however it does not appear to be precluding vegetation establishment. Little to no weeds were observed in the excavated pit area. The excavated pit floor and slopes meet the reclamation requirements and is releasable.

The mine access road does not meet the requirements of the approved reclamation plan. There appears to be two road that lead from County Road T to the pit. Mr. Martinez indicated that the mining road was the more westerly one which is where the mine sign is located. Based on satellite imagery both roads appear to be to have been in existence prior to 1999, however based on the imagery quality the Division is unable to determine the extent of these disturbances. Based on the map submitted with the permit application the western road more closely resembles the road indicated on the map. The western road appears to have been reclaimed however the vegetation is not dense enough in some areas. Also there is large amount of Russian Thistle, especially as you move towards the county road. The eastern road is a two track road with very little vegetation. Vegetation on the eastern road may be the result of volunteer establishment rather than actual reclamation. Neither road is releasable.

There is a county pull off area at the beginning of the access road. This disturbance was not mining related and should not be the operators responsibility since it was created after mining concluded and reclamation activities began. The area has been cleared of vegetation and is almost entirely Russian thistle.

The Division recommends that the operator submits an acreage release for the pit slopes and floor. The access road which was permitted but is not depicted on recent annual report maps should not be requested for release as it needs additional reclamation work. Approximate half an acre will need to remain permitted. If the operator submits an acreage release request within 60-days of this report, the Division will consider this a release inspection for that area. Please note that in order to release any permitted acreage on Federal lands, DRMS must first get concurrence from the BLM prior to final approval.

For areas requiring additional reclamation the Division recommends that work is done this fall. Compacted areas such as roads with visible vehicle traffic would likely benefit from additional tillage. Also the operator should explore methods to preclude unwanted vehicle traffic through reclaimed areas. This may be achieved by placing a temporary fence along the access road, placing large boulders or adding additional signage. Please get approval from BLM prior to implementing any of the above mentioned suggestions or other methods. Additional noxious weed treatments, specifically to control annuals such as Russian thistle (tumbleweed) will greatly benefit this site. Newly established plants can easily be choked out by quick growing noxious weeds. Please be advised that a Pesticide Use Permit (PUP) is required to use chemical herbicides on federal lands. Please ensure that you or your contractor has all the necessary requirements prior to beginning applications.

The Division currently holds a financial warranty amount of \$11,270 for this site. In an effort to ensure the Financial Warranty adequately, reflects the actual current cost of fulfilling the requirements of the approved reclamation plan the Division has updated the reclamation cost estimate. The Division has found the current bond to be adequate.

No problems or violations were noted during this inspection.

Responses to this inspection report should be directed to: Amy Yeldell at the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, 1313 Sherman St., Room 215, Denver, CO 80203. Direct contact can be made by phone at 970-254-8511 or via email at amy.yeldell@ state.co.us

PHOTOGRAPHS



Mine sign and boundary markers



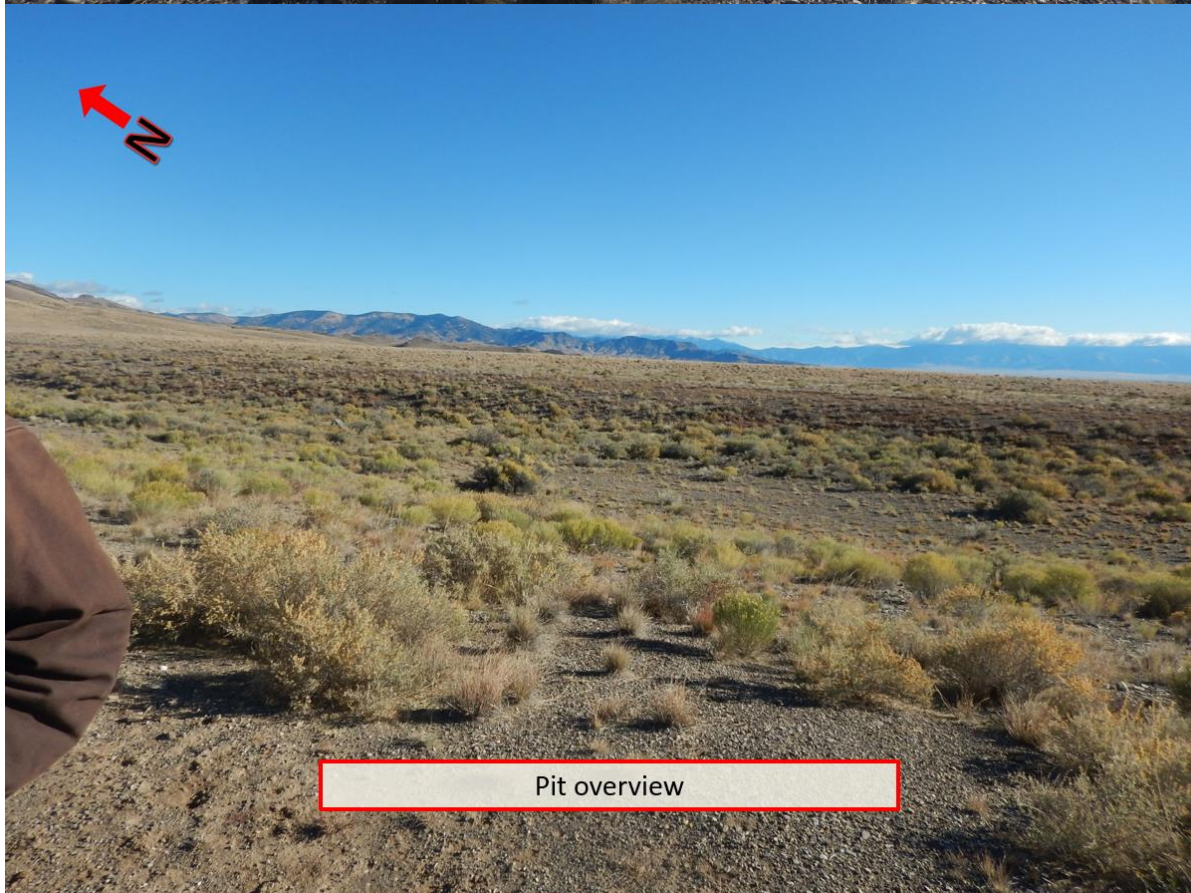




Tire tracks evident on east road



East access road from pit







Inspection Contact Address

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Enclosure

CC: Rebecca Morris
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EC: Russ Means, Senior EPS, GJFO DRMS
Stephanie Mitchell, EPS, GJFO DRMS