


**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.

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| MINE NAME: Sierra Grande Site | MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1994-103 | MINERAL: Sand and gravel | COUNTY: Costilla |
| INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring | INSPECTOR(S): Lucas J. West | INSP. DATE: October 6, 2016 | INSP. TIME: 08:00 |
| OPERATOR: Costilla County | OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Trinidad Martinez | TYPE OF OPERATION: 110c - Construction Limited Impact | |

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| REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program | 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: October 25, 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: Sediment Control**PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION:** Problem: Significant erosion was observed at the outfall of a storm water drain from Highway 160. This is a problem at this time for failure to protect the affected land from erosion pursuant to C.R.S. 34-32.5-116 (4) (j).**CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:** The operator shall provide photo documentation to the Division verifying erosion gullies and ruts have been repaired, and that the site has have been reconstructed and stabilized to prevent erosion damage by the corrective action date. The Division recommends backfilling the gully and armoring it with rip rap to effectively convey storm water without causing significant erosion. Documentation of compliance must be received within **60 days**.**CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE: 12/23/16**

OBSERVATIONS

This inspection was conducted as part of the normal monitoring program established by the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety. The Sierra Grande Site is listed as an active 110(c) operation operated by and located in Costilla County. The site is located adjacent to Highway 160, one mile west of Ft. Garland at approximately 7850 Feet in Elevation. Access to the site is controlled by a locked cable gate. The Division does not hold a financial warranty for the site as it is operated by a County government and no such warranty is required. Six Photos accompany this report to illustrate the current site conditions.

Proper mine identification signage and permit boundary markers were observed on site. The sign was posted at the entrance and can be seen in Photo One. The site was not active during the day of the inspection, and no equipment was on site. The site has not been active in some time, however the operator indicated that the pit floor is often used for temporary storage. When active, the slopes are mine to a stable configuration at approximately 3H: 1V. The side slopes can be seen in Photos Two and Three, appear to be stable and in good condition. Most of the slopes have begun to revegetate themselves with volunteer species such as range grasses as well as Sage and Rabbit brush. One area of the side slopes however demonstrates significant erosion shown in Photos Four and Five. This is a problem at this time for failure to protect the affected land from erosion pursuant to C.R.S. 34-32.5-116 (4) (j). The operator shall provide photo documentation to the Division verifying erosion gullies and ruts have been repaired, and that the site has have been reconstructed and stabilized to prevent erosion damage by the corrective action date. On site discussions with the operator, as well as records kept by the Division indicate that this is not the first time significant erosion has been a problem in this specific location. The operator explained that the erosion has been repaired before but with little success. The Division recommends backfilling the gulley and armoring it with rip rap to effectively convey storm water without causing significant erosion. Documentation of compliance must be received by the Division's Denver Office within **60 days** of the date of this letter. The corrective action must be completed by **Friday December 23, 2016**.

Several stockpiles were noted on site, including several on the pit floor. All stockpiles were in good condition and appeared to be stable. Examples of the stockpiles can be seen in Photo Six. The pit floor itself exhibits positive drainage and impounded storm water was observed on site. Evidence of chemical weed treatment was observed and discussions with the operator indicate that weed management is continuous at all pits operated by the County.

The overall footprint of the site was in good condition and free from trash and debris. All responses to this report should be directed to Lucas West at the Colorado Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety at 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203, by phone at (970)-243-6368 or by email at lucas.west@state.co.us.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo One: View south, showing the proper mine ID signage located at the entrance to the site.



Photo Two: View east, showing an example of the side slopes that for the most part are stable, in good condition and vegetated.





GENERAL INSPECTION TOPICS

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

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| (AR) RECORDS----- <u>Y</u> | (FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY----- <u>N</u> | (RD) ROADS----- <u>Y</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>Y</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>PB</u> | (RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>N</u> |
| (AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>N</u> | (OD) OFF-SITE DAMAGE----- <u>Y</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

Inspection Contact Address

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Enclosure

CC: Russ Means, Senior Environmental Protection Specialist