




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: West Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1983-130	MINERAL: Sand and gravel	COUNTY: Elbert
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	INSPECTOR(S): Amy Eschberger	INSP. DATE: February 17, 2016	INSP. TIME: 11:00
OPERATOR: Elbert County	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Ted Dole	TYPE OF OPERATION: 110c - Construction Limited Impact	
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: November 18, 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>NA</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>Y</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>N</u>	(BG) BACKFILL & GRADING----- <u>Y</u>	(EX) EXPLOSIVES----- <u>NA</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- <u>Y</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>NA</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>Y</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>Y</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>N</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>Y</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>Y</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>Y</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>NA</u>	(OD) OFF-SITE DAMAGE----- <u>Y</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>NA</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 was a normal monitoring inspection of the West Pit (Permit No. M-1983-130) conducted by Amy Eschberger of the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division). Mr. Ted Dole represented the operator, Elbert County during the inspection. The site is located approximately 8.5 miles northeast of Rush, Colorado in Elbert County. The site can be accessed from the east off of Co Rd 137. The affected land is owned by Les West. The approved post-mining land use is rangeland.

This is a 110c operation permitted for 9 acres to mine sand and gravel for use in county road construction and maintenance (see **enclosed Google Earth image of site**). The maximum allowed disturbed area at any time is 9 acres. The permit area is situated on a gravel deposit between drainages that flow southeast to Little Horse Creek when carrying water. Historic mining occurred in the area, including in the southeastern portion of the permit area. According to the approved mining plan, mined material will be pushed into a stockpile on the pit floor, then hauled off site. Material will not be processed on site. Working faces will be maintained at a minimum 3H:1V gradient during mining. Salvaged topsoil will be stored adjacent to the pit. Slope areas may be protected from overland flows by the use of terraces or diversions. The operation is approved for intermittent status to operate less than 180 days per year.

The approved reclamation plan includes grading all disturbed slopes to 3H:1V or flatter, replacing topsoil at a minimum depth of 6 inches, and revegetating the site with a native grass mixture. The Division approved Technical Revision No. 1 (TR-1) on 12/1/1995 to allow for a stock water pond to remain at the bottom of the pit for reclamation. The Division received a letter from the landowner requesting the pond remain for watering livestock.

At the time of the inspection, it was partly cloudy and cool, with some snow cover remaining. A permit sign was posted at the main entrance to the site off of Co Rd 137 (**Photo 1**). The permit boundary was delineated by metal stakes. The site was not active during the inspection. However, Mr. Dole stated the county hauls off from the site every year. The pit has a depth below ground surface of approximately 25 feet (**Photo 2**). It appears the operation has two primary working faces, one along the northern edge of the permit area (**Photo 3**), and the other along a portion of the western edge of the permit area (**Photo 4**). Mined walls are maintained at 3H:1V slope gradients or flatter (see **Photos 3 and 4**), in accordance with the approved mining plan. A material stockpile is stored on the pit floor (**Photo 5**). The pit has reached its lateral extent within the permit boundary. Therefore, the operator intends to mine the pit a little deeper before completing final reclamation. The approved mining plan does not indicate a maximum mining depth. However, groundwater shall not be exposed, as this permit was approved as a dry mining operation.

Topsoil stockpiles are stored along the northern and western edges of the unreclaimed pit walls (see **Photos 3 and 4**). The topsoil stockpiles appeared to be stable with vegetative cover. Native grasses are volunteering into the pit. No weeds were observed. The southwestern portion of the pit has been reclaimed, including the southern pit wall and a portion of the western pit wall (**Photos 6-8**). This area was graded to mainly flatter than 3H:1V, retopsoiled, and seeded, and now has a mixture of native grasses establishing across the area.

It should be noted that some erosion rilling was present along portions of the highwalls. Pursuant to Rule 3.1.6(3), all surfaces of the affected land, including spoil piles, shall be stabilized and protected so as to effectively control erosion. Therefore, the Division recommends the operator repair the erosion damage and work to protect the stability of mined slopes throughout the operation. Any slopes that will not be redisturbed by the operation should be revegetated as soon as possible.

Overall, the site appeared to be stable. This concluded the inspection.

PHOTOGRAPHS

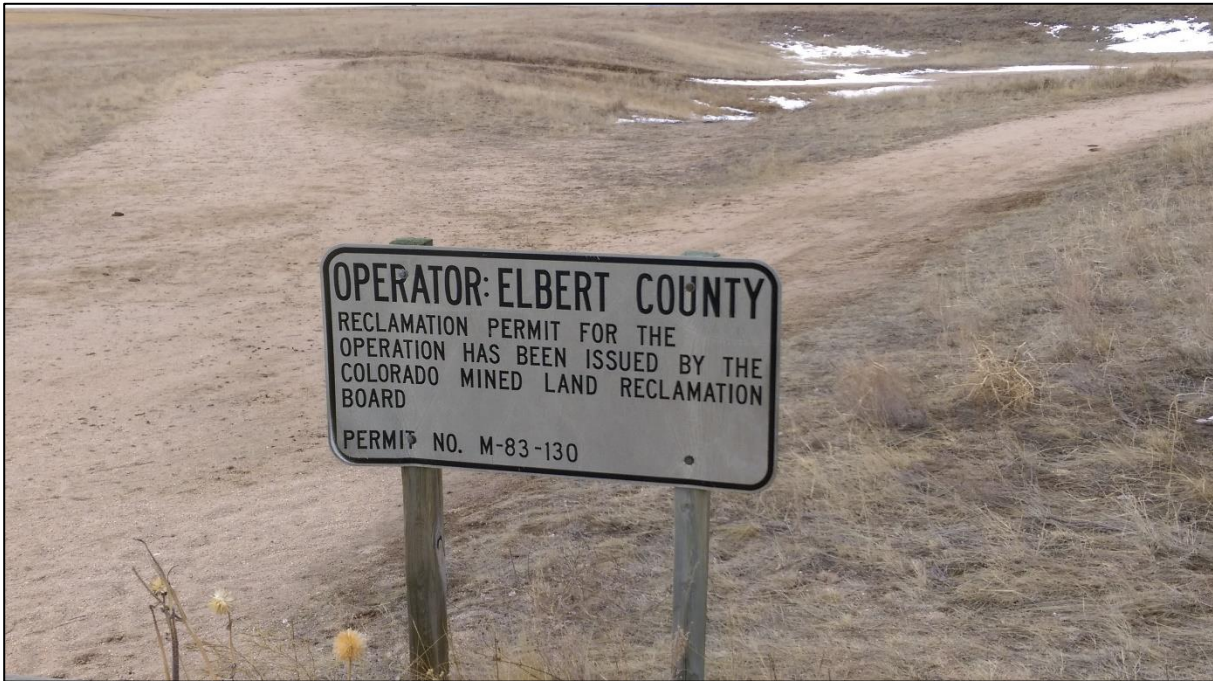


Photo 1. View of permit sign posted at main entrance to site off of Co Rd 137.



Photo 2. View looking east from western edge of permit area, showing pit approximately 25 feet deep.



Photo 3. View of working face along northern edge of pit with slope gradients of 3H:1V or flatter. Note topsoil stockpile stored along top edge of mined wall.



Photo 4. View of working face along western edge of pit with slope gradients of 3H:1V or flatter. Note topsoil stockpile stored along top edge of mined wall.



Photo 5. View of small material stockpile stored on pit floor.



Photo 6. View looking south across reclaimed southwestern portion of permit area. Note native grasses establishing across this area.



Photo 7. View looking southeast across reclaimed southern pit wall. Note slopes graded to 3H:1V or flatter, and native grasses establishing across this area.



Photo 8. View looking north across reclaimed portion of western pit wall. Note slopes graded to 3H:1V or flatter, and native grasses establishing across this area.

Inspection Contact Address

Ted Dole
Elbert County
215 Comanche St.
Kiowa, CO 80117

Enclosure: Google Earth image of site

CC: Wally Erickson, DRMS

M-1983-130 / West Pit / Elbert County

Red Outline = 9 acres = Permit Area
(Image Data from 8/28/2013)



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