


**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.

<b>MINE NAME:</b> Cottonwood Pit	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1988-042	<b>MINERAL:</b> Sand and gravel	<b>COUNTY:</b> Weld
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Peter S. Hays	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> August 29, 2016	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 10:00
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Martin Marietta Materials, Inc.	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b>	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 112c - Construction Regular Operation	

<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Normal I&E Program	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> None	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$421,700.00
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> None	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None
<b>WEATHER:</b> Clear	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> December 5, 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:** Backfilling & Grading**PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION:** Problem: The site is utilizing off-site fill without prior approval by the Division per 3.1.5(9) of the Rule.**CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:** The Operator shall provide a notarized affidavit, stating the fill is inert and addressing all requirements pursuant to Rule 3.1.5(9), which describes the intended use of inert/off-site fill by the corrective action date.**CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE:** 2/06/17**OBSERVATIONS**

The Cottonwood Pit was inspected by Peter Hays with the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division/DRMS) as part of the Division's monitoring inspection program. The site was previously inspected by the Division on March 20, 2012. Mrs. Julie Mikulas with Martin Marietta Materials, Inc. was present during the inspection.

The site is permitted for 393.35 acres. The site is divided into five (5) mining areas. Mining areas CW1 - CW4, as identified in the 2016 Annual Report, are reclaimed and in final reclamation. The perimeter of mining areas CW3, CW2 and CW1 were observed to evaluate the reclamation progress.

The vegetation in mining area CW3 consisted of reclamation grasses with interspersed cheat grass, willows along the shoreline and patches of kochia along the north side of the lake. Noxious weeds including Russian olive and common teasel were observed along Idaho Creek. The observed noxious weeds are List B species on the Colorado Noxious Weed List. The Operator must implement the approved weed control management plan to stop the continued spread of these species. The vegetation in mine areas CW1 and CW2 consisted of reclamation vegetation with some annual weeds.

Mining extraction is progressing to the north in CW5. The Operator stated portions of mining areas CW4 and CW5 would be backfilled with imported fill material to construct the pit slopes, reduce the size of an open water lake and allow the processing plant to be moved to the northeast corner of CW5. The relocation of the plan will allow the resource under the plant can be mined. The source of the imported fill is from the Spec Aggregate site and a site in Boulder owned by the Operator. The imported material will consist mostly of processing waste and will be clean and inert. As cited as a problem, the Operator must comply with the requirements of Rule 3.1.5(9) for the fill material generated outside of the approved permit area for the material placed in mining areas CW4 and CW5 and for all future imported material at the site.

A financial warranty in the amount of \$421,700 is held by the Division to complete reclamation at the site. Photographs taken during the inspection are attached.

**PHOTOGRAPHS**



Cottonwood mine sign



View of CW3 south shoreline from SW corner looking east



View of CW3 west shoreline from SW corner looking north



View of CW2 south shoreline from SE corner looking west



View of CW2 west shoreline from SE corner looking north



View of CW1 north shoreline from NE corner looking west



View of CW1 from NE corner looking SW



View of CW1 from south shoreline looking north



View of SE corner of CW5 looking at slope backfill with imported material



View from NW corner of CW1 looking south



View from NW corner of CW1 looking east



View from NW corner of CW1 looking NE

### GENERAL INSPECTION TOPICS

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

(AR) RECORDS----- <u>Y</u>	(FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY----- <u>Y</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>N</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>Y</u>	(BG) BACKFILL & GRADING----- <u>PB</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>Y</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>N</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

#### Inspection Contact Address

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