




**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> Ranch Land Rock Pit #2	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-2003-021	<b>MINERAL:</b> Gravel	<b>COUNTY:</b> Fremont
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Timothy A. Cazier	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> March 8, 2016	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 09:40
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Ranch Land LLC dba Pioneer Sand Co Inc	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Angela Bellantoni, Wayne Brantley	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 112c - Construction Regular Operation	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Normal I&E Program	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> Partial Bond	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$83,750.00	
<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> January 31, 2017	

**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>Y</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>Y</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>NA</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>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>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 as part of the Division's regular monitoring program. The Operator (Pioneer Sand) was represented during the inspection by Messrs. Wayne Brantley and Robbie Smith, and Dr. Angela Bellantoni. The Ranch Land Rock Pit #2 is accessed from Fremont Co Rd 112 approximately 2.5 miles southeast of Portland (on Hwy 120). This is a 112c gravel mine. It was not operating at the time of the inspection. However, recent activity was noted.

Availability of Records: Annual fees are paid through March 2016. There are no open infractions. Annual reports from 2014, 2015, and 2016 indicate 7.1, 6.0, and 5.0 acres, respectively were reclaimed. However, the Division has no record of a release request and therefore considers these areas disturbed.

Backfilling and Grading: The Operator indicated they were mining at 3H:1V for the most part, so little backfill will be required for reclamation. Annual reports from 2015, and 2016 indicate 728.6 acres were backfilled. However, the Division has no record of a release or bond adjustment request. The Division reminded the Operator that test holes also need to be backfilled and reclaimed.

Complete Inspection: The entire permit area was inspected. No problems were observed.

Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste: No overburden piles were observed.

Financial Warranty: The Division holds a \$83,750.00 bond. This may be low for the reported 38.6 acres of affected area. However, the practice of mining at 3H:1V and the backfilling/grading and reclamation work accomplished has not been accounted for as no formal request has been submitted to the Division. We recommend requesting an acreage release for areas reclaimed, but not accounted for prior to adjusting the bond for current rates as well as keeping the maximum allowed disturbance under 40 acres as permitted.

Fish and Wildlife: No impact on wildlife was observed.

Hydrologic Balance: No standing water was observed in the pits and no exposed groundwater was observed.

Gen. Compliance with Mine Plan: The operation appeared to be in compliance with the approved mine plan. Phase 3 was mostly mined out but still contained product stockpiles (see **Photo 1**).

Off-site Damage: The operation appeared to be confined to the permit boundary.

Processing Waste: Fines from the dry screening process are placed on the pit floors.

Roads: Haul and access roads did not appear to be a source of sediment that could be tracked offsite.

Reclamation Success: Grading of mined out areas (Phase 1) appeared to be completed (see **Photos 2 & 3**). Fines are used for growth media (and backfill where needed), but the Operator indicated no seeding had occurred at the time of the inspection.

Revegetation: No revegetated areas or noxious weeds were observed.

Sediment Control: No erosion was observed, no BMPs were needed at the time of the inspection.

Support Facilities On-site: A truck scale was the only equipment observed on site.

Signs and Markers: The permit sign was properly posted (see **Photo 4**). This is an upland mining operation and topography controls the extent of mining such that it stays within the permit boundary.

Permit Stipulations: There are no permit stipulations.

Storm Water MGT Plan: No oil or fuel spills observed. The stormwater management plan is kept at Pioneer's office.

### PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo #1 – Phase 3 area with product stockpiles



Photo #2 – Phase 1 graded pit floor



Photo #3 – Phase 1 Highwall graded to ~3H:1V



Photo #4 – Permit sign

**Inspection Contact Address**

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ec: DRMS file  
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