




**COLORADO DIVISION OF RECLAMATION, MINING AND SAFETY**  
**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> Stephens Pit	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1978-146	<b>MINERAL:</b> Sand and gravel	<b>COUNTY:</b> Logan
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Elliott R. Russell	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> March 9, 2016	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 10:05
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Logan County	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Chad Wright & Rex Benson	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 112c - Construction Regular Operation	

<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Normal I&E Program	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> NA	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> NA
<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> February 2, 2017

**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.**

**GENERAL INSPECTION TOPICS**

The following list identifies the environmental and permit parameters inspected

(AR) RECORDS----- <b>PB</b>	(FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY----- <b>NA</b>	(RD) ROADS----- <b>Y</b>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <b>Y</b>	(BG) BACKFILL & GRADING----- <b>Y</b>	(EX) EXPLOSIVES----- <b>NA</b>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- <b>NA</b>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <b>NA</b>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <b>Y</b>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <b>Y</b>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <b>Y</b>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <b>Y</b>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <b>PB</b>	(SW) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <b>NA</b>	(CI) COMPLETE INSP---- <b>Y</b>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <b>NA</b>	(SC) SEDIMENT CONTROL----- <b>Y</b>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <b>Y</b>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <b>NA</b>	(OD) OFF-SITE DAMAGE----- <b>NA</b>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <b>NA</b>

Y = Inspected / N = Not inspected / NA = Not applicable to this operation / **PB = Problem cited** / PV = Possible violation cited

## **PROBLEMS/POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS**

### **INSPECTION TOPIC:** Signs & Markers

**COMPLIANCE PROBLEM 1:** The affected area boundary markers are missing or incorrectly placed. This is a problem for failure to maintain boundary markers around the affected area as required by Rule 3.1.12(2).

**CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:** The operator shall conduct a survey and replace the boundary markers in the correct location(s). The operator shall provide proof to the Division that this has been done by the corrective action date.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE:** April 3, 2017

### **INSPECTION TOPIC:** Availability Of Records

**COMPLIANCE PROBLEM 2:** The current mine plan needs to be updated and clarified pursuant to C.R.S. 34-32.5-112 (1)(c)(VI). The operator must provide sufficient information to describe or identify how the operator intends to conduct the operation.

**CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:** The operator shall submit a Technical Revision, with the required \$216 revision fee, to update and clarify the current approved mine plan to reflect existing and proposed activities by the corrective action date.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE:** April 3, 2017

## **OBSERVATIONS**

This inspection was conducted as part of the Division's routine monitoring program for permitted operations. The Stephens Pit is a Construction Material Regular 112c Operation Reclamation Permit with 19.7 permitted acres and an approved post mining land use of Rangeland. The mine is located approximately 7.5 miles southeast of Crook, Colorado. Elliott Russell, with the Division, inspected the site. Chad Wright and Rex Benson, both with Logan County Road & Bridge, represented the Operator and accompanied the inspection. This inspection was carried out as a part of the Division's normal monitoring program.

At 1005 hours, the Division, Mr. Wright, and Mr. Benson arrived at the mine site, located on the west side of County Road 93, approximately 1.5 miles north of County Road 46. At the time of the inspection the temperature was warm, the sky was clear, and the ground was dry. The mine site identification sign was posted where a private access road enters the permit boundary, approximately 2,000 feet from County Road 93. The Division recommends the Operator post an additional mine identification sign along County Road 93 where the private access road starts; this will help achieve the intent of the permit sign at the closest public access point.

The permit boundary was partially delineated by fence lines and metal t-posts. On the north, east, and the northern half of the western boundary. The permit boundary is not marked on the southern portion of the site and this has been cited as Compliance Problem 2. Since the southern portion of the permit extends into agricultural fields, the Operator may submit an alternative plan, in accordance with Rule 3.1.12(3), to identify the permit boundary corners.

The site was not active during the inspection and based on the amount of volunteer vegetation on-site, the Division reminds the Operator of the activity requirements as well as reclamation timeframe requirements.

The site consists of a two distinct areas. The western portion has the most recent disturbance and consists of highwalls that range from 10 to 30 feet high. The Operator should take caution if they intend to advance the highwalls in the northwest corner of the site as the current mining area is approaching the permit boundary. The Operator will likely need to backfill this area to achieved the approved maximum reclamation slope of 3H:1V because the cut/fill approach is not possible due to the proximity to the permit boundary. The other option would be to amend the current permit boundary and expand this area to the north/west to accommodate the cut/fill approach. The eastern portion is an older mined area that contains a large topsoil stockpile on the pit floor. Although the pit floor is appropriately vegetated, the slopes (north, east, and south) are not properly graded to 3H:1V.

The original 110c application permitted 9.9 acres in 1978. In 1989, the operator expanded the permit boundary

(conversion to a 112c permit) and added 9.8 acres to the west and southwest of the original permit boundary. Upon further review of the permit file, the Division does not have an appropriate map that shows the entire permit area of 19.7 acres. This has been cited as Compliance Problem 3, requiring the Operator to submit a Technical Revision with a new Mining Plan Map (Rule 6.4.4) and Reclamation Plan Map (Rule 6.4.6).

This concludes the Division's Inspection Report; a subset of photographs taken during the time of the inspection are included below. If you need additional information or have any questions, please contact me at Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203, by telephone at **303-866-3567 x8132**, or by email at [elliott.russell@state.co.us](mailto:elliott.russell@state.co.us).

**Inspection Contact Address**

Rex Benson  
Logan County  
315 Main St., Ste 2  
Sterling, CO 80751

CC: Jared Ebert; DRMS  
Wally Erickson; DRMS



## **PHOTOGRAPHS**



Mine identification sign posted along the northern permit boundary; looking southwest.

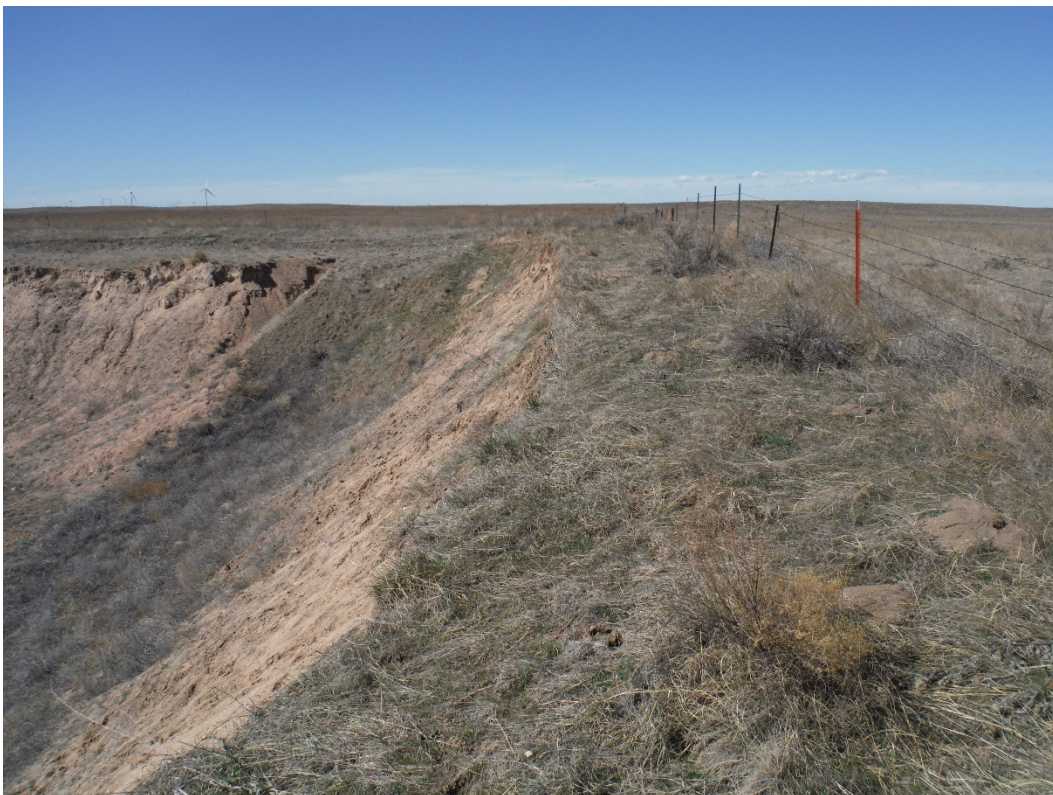


Overview of the western portion (older) of the mine site; looking northwest.





Western highwall; looking south.



Northwest portion of the site, permit boundary is the fence line; looking west.





Overview of the eastern portion (older) of the mine site; looking northwest.



Eastern slope of the mine site, permit boundary is the fence line; looking north.