



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.

MINE NAME: Baculite Mesa Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1997-011	MINERAL: Sand and Gravel	COUNTY: Pueblo
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	INSPECTOR(S): Elliott R. Russell	INSP. DATE: March 1, 2017	INSP. TIME: 14:00
OPERATOR: Baculite Mesa, LLC	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Steve O'Brian	TYPE OF OPERATION: 112c - Construction Regular Operation	

REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: Partial Bond	BOND AMOUNT: \$60,000.00
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None
WEATHER: Clear	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: March 31, 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----- <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>NA</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>NA</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>Y</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>Y</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>Y</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>N</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>PB</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>NA</u>	(CI) COMPLETE INSP---- <u>Y</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>NA</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>Y</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>N</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>PB</u>	(OD) OFF-SITE DAMAGE----- <u>NA</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>NA</u>

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 mine identification sign was not posted at the entrance of the mine site. This is a problem for failure to post a mine identification sign as required by Rule 3.1.12(1).

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: The operator shall, at the entrance of the mine site, post a sign which shall be clearly visible from the access road with the following:

- the permit number
- the name of the operator
- a statement that a reclamation permit for the operation has been issued by the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board

The operator shall submit photo documentation that a proper sign has been posted by the corrective action date.

CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE: May 1, 2017

INSPECTION TOPIC: Acid And Toxic Materials

COMPLIANCE PROBLEM #2: Improper storage and containment of fuels and/or other hazardous materials was present on site.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: All storage tanks, petroleum and any hazardous materials on site for any period of time shall have appropriate secondary containment. The site will also have to comply with all applicable SPCC requirements. Please supply photo documentation that any fuel or hazardous materials containers are stored properly - including applicable secondary containment structures by the corrective action date. Note that secondary containment structures shall consist of an impermeable containment which could contain all contents of the tanks and various containers (when full) plus 10% of the total capacity. The operator may also provide photo documentation that all containers have been removed from the site on or before the corrective action date.

CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE: May 1, 2017

INSPECTION TOPIC: Acid And Toxic Materials

COMPLIANCE PROBLEM #3: A fuel spill has occurred at the site which has impacted soils, surface water or groundwater.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: The operator shall immediately remediate the spill and submit a final report to the Division containing at least the following information:

- 1.) A description of how the spill was cleaned up containing at a minimum - the appropriate maps, volumes removed, sample locations, analytical data, and photo documentation.
- 2.) Evidence in the form of a receipt that the contaminated soil was disposed of by an approved method (such as sent to an approved landfill, land farming, recycling center, etc.).

CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE: May 1, 2017

OBSERVATIONS

This inspection was conducted as part of the Division's routine monitoring program for permitted operations. Elliott Russell, with the Division, conducted the inspection and Steve O'Brian, representing the Operator, accompanied the inspection.

The Baculite Mesa Pit is a Construction Material Regular 112c Operation Reclamation Permit and is approved for 1,970 permitted acres with a maximum of 40 acres disturbed at any one time under the current financial warranty. Affected lands will be reclaimed to support rangeland post-mining land use. The site is located three miles northeast of Pueblo, Colorado.

The Division met Steve O'Brian at the mine site entrance on the east side of Baculite Mesa Road (Apelt Ranch Road), approximately 3.5 miles north of State Highway 47. The mine site identification sign was not posted at the entrance. This has been cited as Compliance Problem #1 on page two of this report. The permit boundary was delineated around the active portion of the site with metal t-posts and fence lines. The site was not active at the time of the inspection, but the Division observed evidence of recent activity. A front-end loader was on-site at the time of the inspection.

The site consists of a single pit, approximately 40 feet deep. The side slopes of the pit have been graded to approximately 2H:1V or flatter. Various stockpiles of product are located at the toe of the western pit slope. Topsoil has been stripped and is stockpiled along the western and southern sides of the pit.

During the inspection the Division observed a fuel storage tank located in the eastern portion of the pit. The tank is located within a metal trough serving as secondary containment. The trough was tilted at an angle and filled with debris, reducing the capacity of the secondary containment. This has been cited as Compliance Problem #2 on page two of this report. The Operator will need to level and clean out the fuel storage secondary containment trough. The Operator will also need to verify that the secondary containment is adequately sized.

Additionally, the Division observed evidence of an oil spill located on the northeast portion of the pit. Two five gallon buckets of oil and two oil spill stains were present. This has been cited as Compliance Problem #3 on page two of this report.

The current \$60,000.00 financial warranty held to cover the cost of reclamation was evaluated as a part of this inspection. The Division determined that the current amount was adequate based on the submitted and approved mining and reclamation plans and from site observations made during the inspection.

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.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Fig 1. Pit overview; looking south.



Fig 2. Pit overview; looking west.



Fig 3. Western pit slope; looking north.



Fig 4. Southern pit slope; looking east.



Fig 5. Topsoil stockpile west of pit; looking south.



Fig 6. Fuel storage tank; looking east.



Fig 7. Oil buckets and stains (circled); looking southeast.

Inspection Contact Address

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CC: Wally Erickson with DRMS
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