




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.

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| MINE NAME: Willow Bend | MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1986-165 | MINERAL: Sand and gravel | COUNTY: La Plata |
| INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring | INSPECTOR(S): Lucas J. West | INSP. DATE: April 5, 2017 | INSP. TIME: 11:15 |
| OPERATOR: Elam Construction, Inc. dba Sandco, Inc. | OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Jodie O'rand | TYPE OF OPERATION: 110c - Construction Limited Impact | |
| REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program | BOND CALCULATION TYPE: Complete Bond | BOND AMOUNT: \$6,647.21 | |
| DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA | POST INSP. CONTACTS: None | JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None | |
| WEATHER: Clear | INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:  | SIGNATURE DATE: April 12, 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.

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| (AR) RECORDS----- <u>Y</u> | (FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY----- <u>Y</u> | (RD) ROADS----- <u>N</u> |
| (HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>N</u> | (BG) BACKFILL & GRADING----- <u>Y</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>Y</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

OBSERVATIONS

This inspection was conducted as part of the normal monitoring program established by the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety. The Willow Bend pit is an active 110c operation located approximately 2 Miles north of Durango off Highway 550. The site lies on the West bank of the Animas River at 6500 Feet in elevation and public access is controlled by a locked private gate. The permit area consists of 6 Acres used for the extraction of sand from the banks of the river. The site is only active once a year during low water to remove material, and was not active during the inspection. The Division currently holds \$6,647.21 in financial warranty for the site. A reclamation cost estimate update was performed and staff calculations found the current bond is sufficient to achieve reclamation. Four Photos accompany this report to illustrate the current site conditions.

Photo One shows the proper Mine Identification Signage was posted at the entrance to the site, and the permit boundaries were clearly marked. The mining activities consist of removing sand from the point bar in the river during low water, and excavation is only performed once a year. Photo Two shows the upstream area of the point bar that has been excavated, and Photos Three and Four show the center and downstream areas of the excavation area. Once the material is removed the area is recharged with sand materials from spring runoff to allow for continued mining. The excavation is performed in a way that does not alter the flow or channel of the river. No signs of significant bank erosion, or re-channelization caused by the mining activities were observed.

The upland section of the permit area is minimally disturbed by the mining activities. The area exhibits natural riparian vegetation and no erosion was observed. The access road leading down to the sand bar in the river is in good condition and is well maintained. No mining related equipment was observed on site, and evidence of mining activities was almost completely absent. No noxious weeds were observed during the inspection, and discussions with the operator indicate that weed management is contracted out and ongoing for all of the sites operated by Elam Construction.

After reviewing records kept by the Division it is unclear whether or not an Army Corps of Engineers permit is required or held for this operation. Please provide the Division, within **60 days** of the date of this report, a copy of the approved ACOE permit, or an explanation as to why no permit is required. This documentation should be received by **Monday June 12, 2017**.

No problems or possible violations were noted during the inspection, and the overall footprint of the site was in good condition. All responses to this report should be directed to Lucas West at the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety at 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver CO 80203, by phone at (970)-243-6368 or by email at lucas.west@state.co.us.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo One showing the proper mine ID signage posted at the entrance to the site.

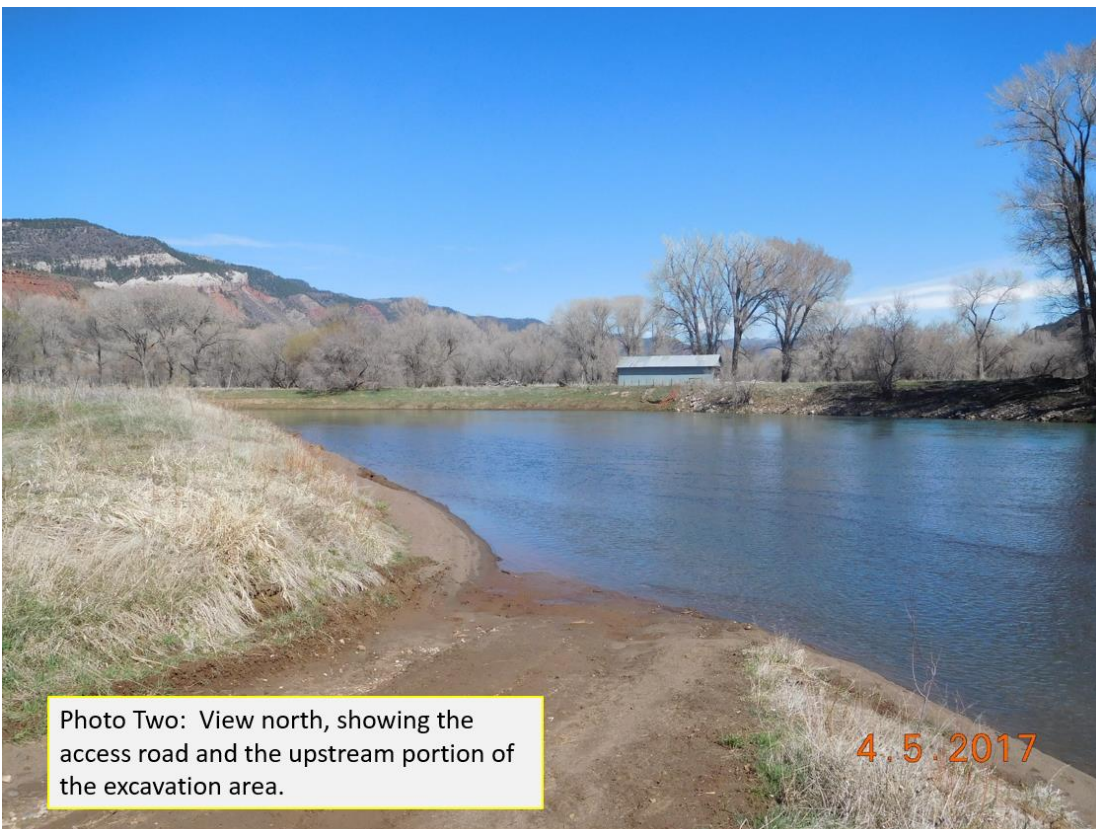


Photo Two: View north, showing the access road and the upstream portion of the excavation area.

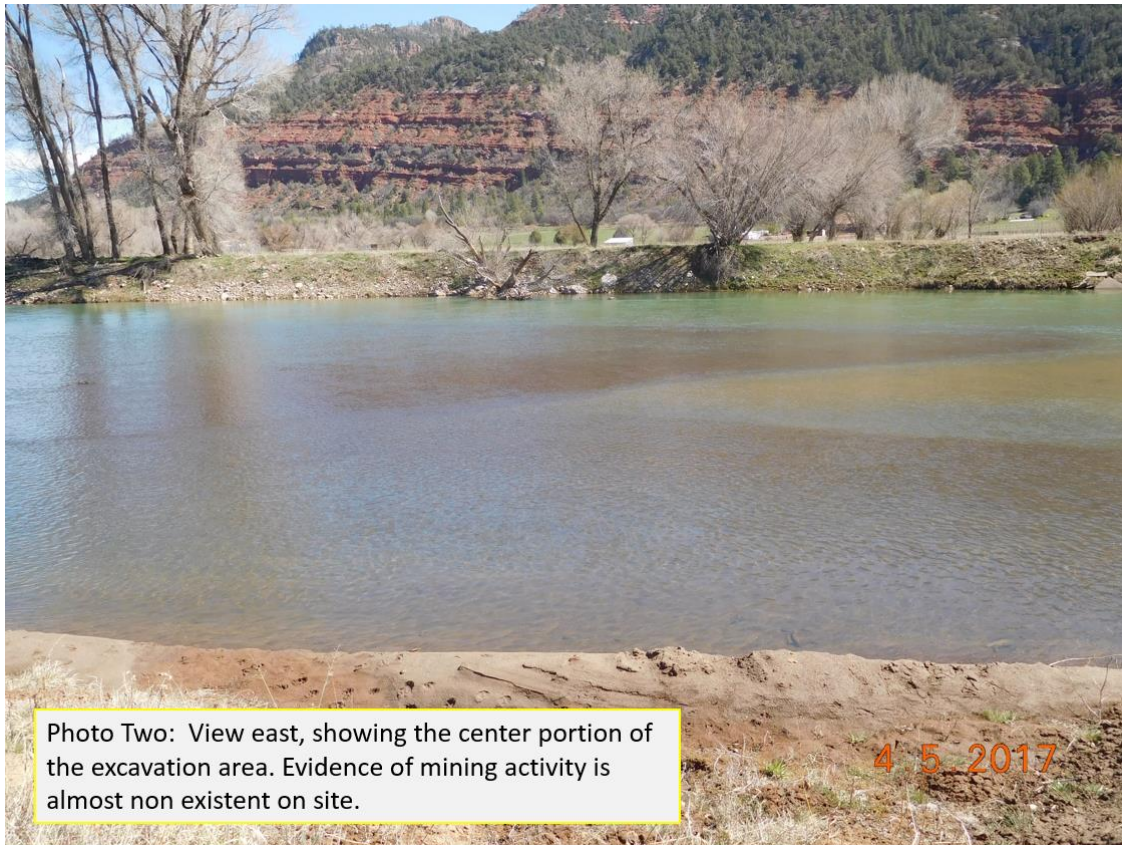


Photo Two: View east, showing the center portion of the excavation area. Evidence of mining activity is almost non-existent on site.

4.5.2017



Photo Four: View south, showing the downstream section of the excavation area.

4.5.2017

Inspection Contact Address

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Grand Junction, Co 81501

Enclosure

CC: Russ Means, Senior Environmental Protection Specialist