



# 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: Stirrup Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1990-138	MINERAL: Gravel	COUNTY: Fremont
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	INSPECTOR(S): Timothy A. Cazier	INSP. DATE: April 27, 2017	INSP. TIME: 12:40
OPERATOR: Fremont County	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Sterling Rife	TYPE OF OPERATION: 110c - Construction Limited Impact	
REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: None	BOND AMOUNT: \$0.00	
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: State	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None	
WEATHER: Windy	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: July 21, 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>NA</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>Y</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>NA</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 regular monitoring program. The Operator was represented by Curtis Stone, who was present for the inspection. This is a 110c gravel mine operated by Fremont County. The Stirrup Pit is located approximately 30 miles north of Cotopaxi in Fremont Co. It is accessed from County Rd 2. The pit showed signs of recent activity, but was not active at the time of inspection.

Availability of Records: Annual fees are paid through January 2017. The previous inspection was on March 14, 2013. The approved post-mine land use is wildlife habitat. There are no open infractions.

Backfilling and Grading: No backfill material is stockpiled, however highwalls appeared to be near 3H:1V (see **Photo 1**), therefore little to no backfilling is necessary.

Complete Inspection: The entire permit area was inspected. No problems other than the exposed groundwater (see Hydrologic Balance below) were observed during the inspection.

Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste: There were no overburden piles.

Fish and Wildlife: No impacts were observed.

Hydrologic Balance: Exposed groundwater was observed in the northwest corner of the pit (see **Photo 2**). Mr. Rife stated he would have it backfilled to two feet above the observed water level. The Division received a photo of the northwest corner being backfilled on May 2, 2017 (see **Photo 3**).

Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan: The operation appeared to be in compliance with the approved mine plan (with exception of the exposed groundwater). Google Earth was used to measure the disturbed area, which was estimated to be approximately 2.9 acres. Highwalls were estimated to be on average 10 feet in height and appeared stable (see **Photo 4**).

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

Processing Waste: Other than large boulders found during excavations and placed near the east permit boundary, no process material is stockpiled on site.

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

Reclamation Success: Mr. Rife stated the County has not begun reclamation on this small site.

Revegetation: No noxious weeds were observed.

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

Support Facilities On-site: None observed.

Signs and Markers: The permit sign was properly posted (see **Photo 5**) and boundary markers were observed

to delineate the permit boundary.

Permit Stipulations: There are no permit stipulations.

Storm Water MGT Plan: No oil or fuel spills observed. Stormwater drains to the pit and infiltrates.

Topsoil: Topsoil is not distinct from overburden and was stockpiled on the crest of the north, west and south highwalls and labeled as such.

Please contact Tim Cazier (303)866-3567 ext. 8169 or email at [tim.cazier@state.co.us](mailto:tim.cazier@state.co.us) if you have any questions regarding this report.

### **PHOTOGRAPHS**



Photo 1. Highwalls appeared to be near 3H:1V (looking NNE).



**PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)**



Photo 2. Exposed groundwater pool (looking north from edge of pool).



Photo 3. Backfilled northwest corner (photo submitted by permittee, looking north).



**PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)**



Photo 4. Highwalls, on average ~10 feet in height appeared stable (looking NNE).



Photo 5. Permit sign.

**Inspection Contact Address**

Sterling Rife  
Fremont County  
1170 Red Canyon Road  
Canon City, CO 81212

CC: DRMS file  
Phil Courtney, SLB