



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.

<b>MINE NAME:</b> Sokol Pit	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1980-193	<b>MINERAL:</b> Sand and gravel	<b>COUNTY:</b> El Paso
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Timothy A. Cazier	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> October 11, 2016	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 13:55
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Rocky Mountain Materials and Asphalt, Inc.	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Dave Bieber, Rusty Cochrane	<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> \$113,757.00	
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> None	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None	
<b>WEATHER:</b> Cloudy	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> November 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.**

**INSPECTION TOPIC:** Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

**PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION:** Problem: No utility structures agreement for the transmission powerline on the south side of the pit.

**CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:** Within 30 days of this report the Operator must submit a notarized letter or agreement in accordance with Rule 6.4.19 addressing the potential for damage to the transmission powerline.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE:** 12/05/17

## **OBSERVATIONS**

This inspection was conducted as part of the regular monitoring program. The Permittee, Rocky Mountain Materials and Asphalt (RMMA) was represented by Messrs. Dave Bieber and Rusty Cochrane during the inspection. The Sokol Pit is accessed from Soap Weed Rd (approximately 1.5 miles west of Calhan) where the pit entrance is approximately 2.75 south of US Hwy 24. This is a 112c sand and gravel mine. It was not operating at the time of the inspection.

Availability of Records: Annual fees are paid through October 2017. The previous inspection was on March 14, 2012. The approved post-mine land use is rangeland. There are no open infractions.

Backfilling and Grading: Sufficient backfill material appeared to be available.

Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste: Overburden piles were observed in the southeast corner. Overburden is not distinct from topsoil in the area. Overburden piles appeared stable.

Financial Warranty: The \$113,757 bond held by the Division is adequate for the observed mine disturbance.

Fish and Wildlife: No impacts to fish or wildlife were observed.

Hydrologic Balance: No standing water was observed in the pit and no exposed groundwater was observed. Sediment ponds and wash ponds were dry (see **Photos 1** and **2**)

Gen. Compliance with Mine Plan: The operation appeared to be in compliance with the approved mine plan. Google Earth was used to measure the disturbed area, which was estimated to be approximately 35 acres. Site representatives indicated they are in Phase I. The total affected area approved in the permit is 295 acres. The current maximum affected area allowed at one time by the permit is 50 acres (approved in AM-01). Representatives indicated they may need more when expanding to Phase II. This will require a request for a technical revision be submitted to the Division. High walls were estimated to vary between 20 and 40 feet in height and showed signs of erosion (see **Photo 3**). However, the eroding highwalls were far enough from the permit boundary that the erosion would not expect to migrate offsite for quite some time. The Operator should monitor the erosion to ensure it does not lead to offsite impact. The approved mine plan (AM-01) allows the highwalls to be excavated at 1H:1V slopes, then backfilled to 3H:1V for reclamation.

A transmission line was observed on the south side of the permitted area. It appeared to be within 200 feet of the affected area, thereby requiring a structures agreement. Site representatives indicated the transmission line is relatively new. A review of Google Earth historical imagery indicates the powerline was installed between September of 2014 and November of 2015. **The absence of a structures agreement for the transmission power line on the south side of the pit is cited as a problem on page 1 of this report.** Enclosed with this report is a sample structures agreement. As this is a utility, the Division would also accept a notarized letter, on utility letterhead, from the owner(s) of the utility that the mining and reclamation activities, as proposed, will have "no negative effect" on their utility pursuant to Rule 6.4.19(c).

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

Processing Waste: A stockpile of fines was observed on the southeast crest of the highwall.

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

Reclamation Success: No reclamation has been initiated. The Division has confirmed the reclamation area (see **Photo 4**) in the northwest corner near Soap Weed Rd is in the permit boundary and is considered affected area

Revegetation: No revegetation had been initiated at the time of the inspection. No noxious weeds were observed.

Sediment Control: Some erosion rills and gullies were observed on the highwalls but no BMPs were needed at the time of the inspection.

Support Facilities On-site: A screen plant and truck scale were observed on site (see **Photo 5** and **6**).

Signs and Markers: The permit sign was properly posted (see **Photo 7**), although the permit number should be included on the large sign. Boundary markers consisted of fences (see **Photo 8**) on the east and south sides, and T-posts on the north and west sides.

Permit Stipulations: There are no permit stipulations.

Storm Water MGT Plan: No oil or fuel spills observed. Stormwater drains to the pit and to a stormwater pond within the pit area (see **Photo 1**).

Topsoil: Topsoil, not distinct from overburden has been stripped and stockpiled for reclamation.

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. Sediment pond (looking SW).



Photo 2. Wash ponds (looking SE).



**PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)**



Photo 3. North highwalls showing signs of erosion (note stockpile of milled asphalt).



Photo 4. Reclamation area in the northwest corner near Soap Weed Rd (looking NW).



**PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)**



Photo 5. Screen plant (looking SE).



Photo 6. Truck scale.



**PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)**



Photo 7. Permit sign at entrance.



Photo 8. Fence marking east affected area boundary.

### GENERAL INSPECTION TOPICS

The following list identifies the environmental and permit parameters inspected and gives a categorical evaluation of each

(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>Y</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>PB</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>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>Y</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>Y</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>Y</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>Y</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>NA</u>	(OD) OFF-SITE DAMAGE----- <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

#### Inspection Contact Address

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Enclosure

CC: DRMS file