



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: Smith Ranch Pit No 2	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1988-022	MINERAL: Gravel	COUNTY: Lincoln
INSPECTION TYPE: Surety Release Inspection	INSPECTOR(S): Timothy A. Cazier	INSP. DATE: December 19, 2017	INSP. TIME: 11:15
OPERATOR: Lincoln County	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Trey James	TYPE OF OPERATION: 110c - Construction Limited Impact	
REASON FOR INSPECTION: Surety Release Requested	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: None	BOND AMOUNT: \$0.00	
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None	
WEATHER: Clear	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: January 10, 2018	

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>N</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>Y</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

OBSERVATIONS

This inspection was conducted as part of the request for full reclamation liability release received on November 30, 2017. The Permittee (Lincoln County) was represented by Mr. Trey James during the inspection. The Smith Ranch Pit No 2 is accessed from Lincoln Co Rd T and is located approximately 2 miles east of State Hwy 71 (about 7 miles west of Karval). This is a 110c sand and gravel mine. According to the file it has not operated since about 2005, and was not operating at the time of the inspection.

Availability of Records: Annual fees are paid through May 2017. The previous inspection was on January 29, 2014. The approved post-mine land use is rangeland. There are no open infractions.

Backfilling and Grading: The approval of TR-02 in 2009 allowed the slopes to be as steep as 3H:1V. The regraded slopes appeared to be adequate in that regard. As such no more backfilling or grading is required.

Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste: No overburden piles were observed.

Financial Warranty: This pit is permitted by Lincoln County, therefore no bond is required by the Division.

Fish and Wildlife: No impact to fish or wildlife was observed.

Hydrologic Balance: No standing water was observed in the pit and no exposed groundwater was observed.

Gen. Compliance with Mine Plan: No issues with mine plan compliance were observed.

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

Processing Waste: No processing waste was observed.

Roads: The haul and access roads are not included in this 110c permit boundary and are almost indistinguishable from the undisturbed surrounding area.

Reclamation Success: Reclamation grading has been completed for the pit (see **Photos 1** through **3**).

Revegetation: The only vegetation in the disturbed area is a mix of what appeared to be primarily two species of annual weeds (see **Photos 4** and **5**). Samples were taken to the DRMS office for identification, however, they could not be identified given their mid-winter condition. The DRMS is reasonably certain the two species are not on the Colorado noxious weed list. No grasses at all were observed in the disturbed area and there were bare spots on the pit floor (see **Photos 2** and **5**). As there appears to be no vegetation established other than annual weeds, the DRMS cannot recommend release of this site at this time. Previous inspections have suggested submitting a Technical Revision (TR) to change the approved seed mix to include grasses that are more drought tolerant (this was due to the recent drought experienced in eastern Colorado). The DRMS recommends mowing the weeds now and drill seeding this spring to take advantage of any late season moisture.

Signs and Markers: A permit sign was posted (see **Photo 6**), but was illegible due to faded lettering. Given the site cannot be released at this time, the permit sign should be repainted or replaced. The entire site was fenced with barbed wire to mark the permit boundary (see **Photo 7**).

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: No topsoil stockpile was observed.

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

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1. Reclamation grading (1 of 3, looking west from SE corner of site).

PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)



Photo 2. Reclamation grading (2 of 3, looking NW from SE corner of site, note bare area).



Photo 3. Reclamation grading (3 of 3, looking north from SE corner of site).

PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)



Photo 4. Typical weeds on south pit slope (looking west).



Photo 5. Typical weeds on east pit slope (looking east from pit floor).

PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)



Photo 6. Permit sign off County Road T (requires repainting or replacement).



Photo 7. Fenced boundary on west side of pit (looking SSW).

Inspection Contact Address

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ec: DRMS file