




**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><br>Hess Pit                       | <b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b><br>M-1986-033   | <b>MINERAL:</b><br>Sand and gravel                              | <b>COUNTY:</b><br>La Plata  |
| <b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b><br>Monitoring               | <b>INSPECTOR(S):</b><br>Lucas J. West  | <b>INSP. DATE:</b><br>February 5, 2018                          | <b>INSP. TIME:</b><br>14:00 |
| <b>OPERATOR:</b><br>Sunnyside Gravel & Excavation   | <b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b><br>Alton Hess  | <b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b><br>110c - Construction Limited Impact |                             |
| <b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b><br>Normal I&E Program | <b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b><br>Complete Bond   | <b>BOND AMOUNT:</b><br>\$34,641.06                              |                             |
| <b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b><br>NA                     | <b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b><br>None  | <b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b><br>None                              |                             |
| <b>WEATHER:</b><br>Clear                            | <b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b><br> | <b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b><br>February 14, 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>N</u>    | (RD) ROADS----- <u>N</u>        |
| (HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>Y</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>   | (RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>Y</u>  |
| (ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>N</u>   | (SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>Y</u>   | (ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>N</u> |
| (AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>N</u> | (OD) OFF-SITE DAMAGE----- <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 Hess Pit is an active 110(c) operation located in La Plata County approximately 10 Miles Southeast of Durango, CO. The site is located just north of the intersection of Dos Rios Rd and Chamisa Drive at nearly 6600 Feet in elevation. Public access to the site is controlled by a locked gate where the access road meets Chamisa Drive. The Division currently holds \$34,641.06 in Financial Warranty for the site. A reclamation cost estimate was performed and staff calculations found the currently held financial warranty to be sufficient to achieve reclamation in accordance with the approved reclamation plan. Along with the inspector listed on page one of this report, Alton Hess the Operator, was present during the inspection. Four Photos accompany this report to illustrate the current site conditions.

The proper Mine Identification Sign was posted at the entrance to the site as seen in Photo One, and the permit boundaries were also clearly identified. The site was not active during the inspection and no mining related equipment was on site. The active mining area is located in the southern extent of the site and consists of a small highwall with varying slopes. The highwall can be seen in Photo Two, appears to be stable and in good condition. It is being mined in various stages of a 1H:1V and 2H:1V configurations. The base of the highwall is accessed by a ranch road that extends along the edge of the permitted area. Small stockpiles of material are located at the base of the highwall. The stockpiles are small, appear to be stable and in good condition.

The upper area of the site consists of a large pit floor area, and historically mined upper highwall. The pit floor area can be seen in Photos Three and Four. The area is currently being used to store a variety of construction debris and vegetative slash that has accumulated through the routine maintenance of the ranch. These materials are stored temporarily and discussions with the Operator indicate that the materials are removed annually and either taken to the landfill or recycled when possible. The northern extent of the permitted area consists mainly of a previously mined highwall that has been reclaimed. The reclaimed highwall has been sloped to an approximately #H: 1V configuration and revegetated. The graded areas show no signs of settling slumping or significant erosion. The vegetation is somewhat sparse but is establishing well.

The overall footprint of the site is in good condition. All debris that is stored on site is in a neat and orderly fashion and is not considered a problem at this time. No signs of significant erosion were noted during the inspection and no state listed noxious weeds were observed. There are no problems or possible violations on site. 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](mailto:lucas.west@state.co.us).

## PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo One: View East, showing the proper Mine ID sign posted at the entrance to the site.

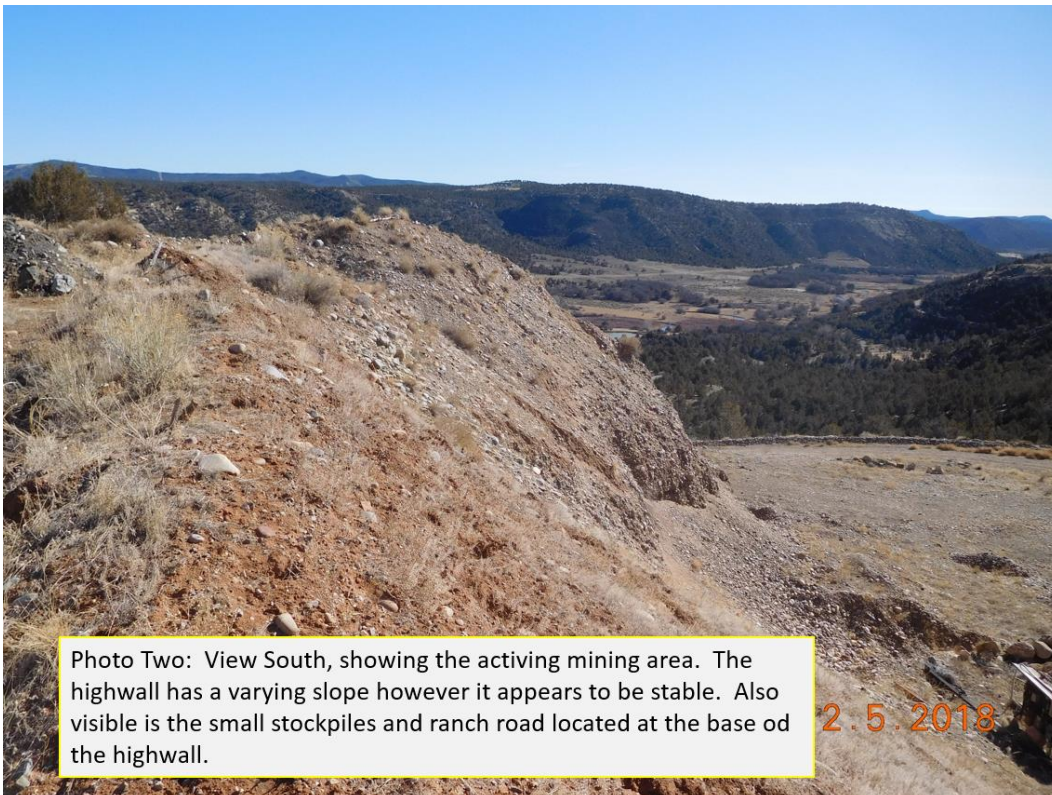


Photo Two: View South, showing the active mining area. The highwall has a varying slope however it appears to be stable. Also visible is the small stockpiles and ranch road located at the base of the highwall.





**Inspection Contact Address**

Alton Hess  
Sunnyside Gravel & Excavation  
9983 Hwy 550  
Durango, CO 81303

Enclosure

CC: Russ Means, Senior Environmental Protection Specialist