


**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><br>DeBeque Gravel Pit        | <b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b><br>M-1981-058       | <b>MINERAL:</b><br>Sand and gravel                                 | <b>COUNTY:</b><br>Mesa      |
| <b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b><br>Monitoring          | <b>INSPECTOR(S):</b><br>Amy C. Yeldell           | <b>INSP. DATE:</b><br>February 22, 2018                            | <b>INSP. TIME:</b><br>14:00 |
| <b>OPERATOR:</b><br>Thomas F & Ginger L Latham | <b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b><br>Thomas Latham | <b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b><br>112c - Construction Regular Operation |                             |

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b><br>Normal I&E Program | <b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b><br>Complete Bond  | <b>BOND AMOUNT:</b><br>\$58,202.18      |
| <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>Cloudy                           | <b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b><br> | <b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b><br>March 7, 2018 |

**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:** Signs & Markers

**PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION:** Problem: The mine identification sign was posted at the entrance of the mine site however displayed incorrect information. This is a problem for failure to post a mine identification sign as required by Section 3.1.12(1) of the rule.

**CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:** The operator shall, at the entrance of the mine site, post a sign which shall be clearly visible from the access road with the following: the name of the operator, a statement that a reclamation permit for the operation has been issued by the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board; and the permit number. The operator shall submit photo documentation that a proper sign has been posted by the corrective action date.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE:** 4/30/18

**INSPECTION TOPIC:** Permit Stipulations

**PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION:** Problem: Rule 1.13.5 states, if an Operator temporarily ceases production of the mining operation for one hundred eighty (180) days or more, the Operator must file a Notice of Temporary Cessation in writing to the Office.

**CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:** The Division recommends the Operator file for Temporary Cessation. The start date of the initial 5 year Temporary Cessation period is retroactive to the last date the pit was active. If that date is more than 5 years ago, the operator is required ask the Board for a 5 year extension to the Temporary Cessation period (per rule 1.13.5 (3) and 1.13.8 (b) or begin reclamation. Request form is included with the report.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE:** 4/30/18

**INSPECTION TOPIC:** Topsoil

**PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION:** Problem: The topsoil stockpiles do not have established vegetation on them and are therefore susceptible to erosion. Rule 3.1.9(1) states if topsoil is not replaced into the backfill area within a time short enough to avoid deterioration of the topsoil, vegetative cover or other means shall be employed so that the topsoil is protected from erosion.

**CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:** The operator shall seed the stockpiles with the seed mix that was submitted as part of the approved Reclamation Plan. If no seed mix has been provided, the operator shall submit a seed mix for approval as a technical revision to the permit along with the appropriate \$216 revision fee to the Division by the corrective action date. The Operator shall demonstrate compliance by submitting seed tags, a bill of sale or photographs of seeding activities.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE:** 10/31/14 Final extension to April 30, 2018 given.

### **OBSERVATIONS**

This inspection was conducted as part of the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) normal monitoring program. DeBeque Sand and Gravel Resources is a 112c permitted site that includes a total of 41.7 permitted acres. This site located approximately four miles south of DeBeque, Colorado in Mesa County and is accessed from Highway 6. Thomas Latham represented the operator and accompanied Amy Yeldell of the Division conducted the inspection.

The mine identification sign and affected area boundary markers remain in place. The mine identification sign was leaned up against the fence at entrance. The information displayed on the mine sign is out of date. This is cited as a problem. Please update the name of the operator and change DMG to DRMS. Please note that contact information is not a requirement of Rule 3.1.12(1) however Elam Construction, Inc. is no longer operating this pit. A wire fence delineates the permit boundary.

This site was inactive at the time of the inspection. A scale and scale house is located near the pit entrance. No equipment, fuel or other structures are stored on site at this time. The site is clean and free of trash and other miscellaneous debris.

The ground was largely covered by snow at the time of the inspection. Staffs ability to inspect vegetation and erosion was limited.

The excavated portion of the pit has resulted in one large pond. The pond is approximately 20 feet deep on average and approximately 10 acres. The majority of the banks around the pond have been graded and are revegetated. The banks on the southwestern side of the pond still have additional reclamation tasks to be completed. The operator is encouraged to release areas where reclamation has successfully been completed

and work towards reclaiming other areas where mining has concluded.

Several large stockpiles are stored in the southeastern portion of the permit boundary. Based on discussions with the operator, this is material that was excavated last time the pit was active. Coble will likely need to be crushed before it is sold and hauled off site. The stockpile area is approximately 8 acres. Stockpiles appear to be stable and free of erosion.

Several large topsoil berms are located along the southern boundary of the pit. Some dormant weeds were observed but these stockpiles appear to be void of desirable vegetation. This has previously been cited as an inspection problem. The operator was given several extensions however the problem remains unresolved. A separate letter will be sent regarding this problem.

The northeast portion of the permit remains undisturbed by mining and continues to be utilized by the land owner for agriculture. This area is approximately 13 acres.

As previously indicated this site has been inactive for quite some time. Mature sagebrush was observed growing between stockpiles. The 2017 annual report indicates that the last mining occurred in September of 2014. The operator confirmed this during the inspection. He clarified that though Kirkland (the company who leases the property) has a valid contract they have not needed to mine. Furthermore neither Kirkland nor the operator have any plans to reactivate the pit this coming year. This is cited as a problem. In order for a pit to be in active status it must be active more than 180 days a year. If the operation ceases production for more than 180 days the permit shall be put into temporary cessation. The operator may also choose to go into final reclamation. Please request to have the permit put into temporary cessation or commence final reclamation by the corrective action date. The request form is attached to this report.

The Division currently requires a financial warranty amount of \$58,202.18 for this site. The bond has not been recalculated since SI-2 in 2014. In an effort to ensure the Financial Warranty adequately, reflects the actual current cost of fulfilling the requirements of the approved reclamation plan the Division will be updating the reclamation cost estimate. If the current bond is found to be insufficient the Division will send a Notice of Surety Increase under a separate cover.

Responses to this inspection report should be directed to: Amy Yeldell at the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, 1313 Sherman St., Room 215, Denver, CO 80203. Direct contact can be made by phone at 970-254-8511 or via email at amy.yeldell@state.co.us

**PHOTOGRAPHS**

















### 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>N</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>NA</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>N</u>   |
| (SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>PB</u>       | (SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>N</u>   | (RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>Y</u>   |
| (ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>Y</u>    | (SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>Y</u>   | (ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>PB</u> |
| (AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>NA</u> | (OD) OFF-SITE DAMAGE----- <u>NA</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

Thomas Latham  
Thomas F & Ginger L Latham  
P.O. Box 66  
DeBeque, CO 81630

Enclosure

CC:  
Russ Means, Senior EPS, Grand Junction DRMS



# COLORADO DIVISION OF RECLAMATION, MINING AND SAFETY

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, Colorado 80203 Phone (303) 866-3567

## TEMPORARY CESSATION NOTICE

(mining activities temporarily cease for more than a one-year period)

Today's date: \_\_\_\_\_

Permit number: M- \_\_\_\_\_ Site name: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ TC number: \_\_\_\_\_ (DRMS use only)

Permittee making request: \_\_\_\_\_

Operator (if other than permittee): \_\_\_\_\_

Date the initial five-year period of Temporary Cessation begins: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason mining activities (materials extraction, processing, hauling) have ceased:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Description of plan to resume operations:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Description of plan to meet performance standards of Rule 3.1 during temporary cessation (reclamation, weed control, monitoring, signs, markers, etc.):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Number of affected acres: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of financial warranty (bond) on deposit with the state: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Required fees for Temporary Cessation by permit type (please mark the correct fee and submit it with this request for Temporary Cessation):

| <u>Permit type</u>      | <u>Required TR fee</u> | <u>Submitted</u> (mark only one) |
|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Construction Materials  | \$144                  | <input type="checkbox"/>         |
| Hard Rock/ Metal Mining | \$115                  | <input type="checkbox"/>         |

**The above-referenced permit has entered Temporary Cessation. This site has reserves remaining to be mined.**

**Operator's signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Please note:*

- 1. While in Temporary Cessation, the operator must continue to comply with the Rules and Act, including maintaining the site, and must continue to file an annual report and annual fee.*