



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: Higgins Pit II	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-2012-013	MINERAL: Borrow material	COUNTY: Lincoln
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	INSPECTOR(S): Timothy A. Cazier	INSP. DATE: August 24, 2017	INSP. TIME: 10:45
OPERATOR: Smithburg Family Partnership, LLLP	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: None	TYPE OF OPERATION: 112c - Construction Regular Operation	
REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: Partial Bond	BOND AMOUNT: \$106,380.00	
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None	
WEATHER: Cloudy	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: April 3, 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>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>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 regular monitoring program. The Permittee (John Higgins) was notified of the inspection, but was unable to attend. The Higgins Pit II is accessed from Lincoln Co Rd 28 approximately 2.5 miles west of Genoa. This is a 112c borrow material mine. It was not operating at the time of the inspection.

Availability of Records: Annual fees are paid through July 2016. The 2017 annual report was past due at the time of the inspection. The Division received the late report on January 8, 2018. The previous inspection was on October 3, 2013. The approved post-mine land use is pastureland. There are no open infractions.

Backfilling and Grading: The north and east highwalls were observed to be sloped at approximately 3H:1V.

Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste: This inspector did not observe any overburden piles.

Financial Warranty: The \$106,380 bond held by the Division is adequate for the observed mine disturbance.

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: The operation appeared to be in compliance with the approved mine plan. The active area appeared to be on the west end (see **Photos 1** and **2**) Google Earth was used to measure the disturbed area, which was estimated to be approximately 34 acres, based on 2014 satellite imagery. The maximum allowed disturbed are is 52.66 acres.

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

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

Reclamation Success: The east end appeared to be graded to 3H:1V, and is likely adequate for release. Much of the cover was sunflower, so a final assessment of vegetation establishment should wait.

Revegetation: The east end appeared to be revegetating well (see **Photos 3** and **4**). No noxious weeds were observed.

Sediment Control: No erosion problems were observed and no BMPs were needed at the time of the inspection. The silt fence on the crest of the eastern end of the highwall was failing (see **Photo 5**), but not needed with the vegetation at the time.

Support Facilities On-site: No equipment was observed on site.

Signs and Markers: The permit sign was properly posted (see **Photo 6**). A fence clearly marked some boundary, but without a site representative available to clarify if the fence had been adjusted for the 2013 acreage release, it was uncertain whether or not the boundary was appropriately marked at the time of the inspection.

Permit Stipulations: There are no permit stipulations.

Structures: Adjacent or nearby structures include fences and power windmills.

Storm Water MGT Plan: No oil or fuel spills observed. Stormwater appears to drain to the flat pit and infiltrate.

Topsoil: What appeared to be a topsoil stockpile (see **Photo 7**) was observed near two crossed T-posts on the north side of the site above the excavated area. It was vegetated and stable.

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. Active area (west end, looking NE).

PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)



Photo 2. Active area (west end, looking SW; note product stockpile).



Photo 3. Reclaimed east end (looking SE).

PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)



Photo 4. Reclaimed east end (looking NW).



Photo 5. Failing silt fence on crest of eastern end of highwall (looking WNW).

PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)



Photo 6. Permit sign at entrance.



Photo 7. Probable topsoil stockpile (north side of west end, looking west).

Inspection Contact Address

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CC: DRMS file