


**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: Salt Canyon Project	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1997-064	MINERAL: Anhydrite, Gypsum	COUNTY: Fremont
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	INSPECTOR(S): Timothy A. Cazier	INSP. DATE: March 28, 2018	INSP. TIME: 08:30
OPERATOR: GCC Rio Grande, Inc.	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Joseph Joshua	TYPE OF OPERATION: 112c - Construction Regular Operation	
REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: Partial Bond	BOND AMOUNT: \$69,832.00	
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: Colo. Land Board	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None	
WEATHER: Clear	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: April 5, 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 affected area boundary markers are missing on all but the east side of the affected area. This is a problem for failure to maintain boundary markers around the affected area as required by Section 3.1.12(2) of the rule.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: The operator shall conduct a survey and replace the boundary markers in the correct location(s). The operator shall provide proof to the Division that this has been done along with GPS coordinates (UTM or Latitude/Longitude) by the corrective action date.

CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE: 6/04/18

OBSERVATIONS

This inspection was conducted as part of the regular monitoring program. The Permittee (GCC Rio Grande) was represented by Mr. Joseph Joshua and the mine supervisor, Robert during the inspection. The Salt Canyon Project is accessed from State Hwy 115 approximately 10 miles north of Penrose. This is a 112c gypsum mine. It was not operating at the time of the inspection.

Availability of Records: Annual fees are paid through December 2017. The previous inspection was on March 11, 2014. 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: Mine representatives indicated they do not distinguish between overburden and topsoil. As such, there were no overburden piles.

Explosives: Mine representatives stated they coordinate with Buckley Powder (who does their blasting) to develop plans for each blast. Records are kept in GCC's Pueblo office.

Financial Warranty: The \$69,832 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 with the exception of missing boundary markers on the west side as discussed under "Signs and Markers" below. Google Earth was used to measure the disturbed area, which was estimated to be approximately 15 acres, based on June 2017 satellite imagery. Highwalls were estimated to vary between 8 and 12 feet in height and appeared stable (see **Photo 1**). Mine representatives indicated the mine progression is towards the southeast and a rough estimate for the remaining life of mine is 10 years. This Inspector reminded the site representatives that the previously disturbed area mined by Western Nutrients (see **Photo 2**) is considered part of the current disturbed area.

Off-site Damage: A Google Earth review suggested stockpiles on the northwest (see **Photo 3**) may be outside the permit affected area boundary as indicated by the red cloud on the **enclosed Pre-Inspection Map**. This inspector could not confirm this as the boundary was not marked on the ground as discussed under "Signs and Markers" below. The lack of boundary markers on the majority of the affected area permit boundary is cited as a problem under Signs and Markers. The missing markers will need to be placed as part of the Corrective Action for this problem. Once the boundary markers are placed, the Division will determine whether or not mining activity has occurred outside the affected area boundary. If this proves to be the case, additional problems may be cited.

Processing Waste: Mr. Joshua indicated GCC started using their reject material about three years ago. As such their waste rock material is being reduced.

Roads: Mine representatives stated they truck water from the Pueblo area for dust control.

Reclamation Success: No reclamation has been initiated.

Revegetation: No revegetation efforts had been initiated. No noxious weeds were observed.

Sediment Control: No erosion problems were observed and no BMPs were needed at the time of the inspection.

Support Facilities On-site: Two screens and a loader were observed on site (see **Photo 4**).

Signs and Markers: The permit sign was properly posted (see **Photo 5**). The affected area boundary apparently is only marked by a fence on the southeast. No other boundary markers could be located in the field. **The missing boundary markers are cited as a problem on page 1 of this report.**

Permit Stipulations: There are no permit stipulations.

Storm Water MGT Plan: No oil or fuel spills observed. Representatives stated stormwater drains to the pit and infiltrates. It should be noted the area being mined is a topographic high, as such very little stormwater runoff is encountered.

Topsoil: Topsoil stockpiles were observed as berms along the haul road (see **Photo 6**) and appeared 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. North side highwall (looking east).

PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)



Photo 2. Old permit sign at entrance to area mined by Western Nutrients (included in affected area).



Photo 3. Product stockpile near affected area boundary (NW side).

PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)



Photo 4. Screens and loader (looking west).



Photo 5. Permit sign at entrance off Hwy 115.

PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)



Photo 6. Typical topsoil stockpile berm along haul road (NW side, looking SE).

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>Y</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>Y</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>Y</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>Y</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- PB	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>NA</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>N</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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ec: DRMS file
Joseph Joshua, GCC
Phil Courtney, SLB

M-1997-064 Pre-Inspection Map

Satellite Imagery from 6/9/2017

- Legend**
- Area
 - Disturbed Area
 - Future Phases
 - Permit Boundary
 - Phase
 - Process Area
 - Salt Canyon Project

Google Earth

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Salt Canyon Project

115

N

1000 ft