


**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> Kokes Gravel Pit	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1978-249	<b>MINERAL:</b> Sand and gravel	<b>COUNTY:</b> Logan
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Jared L. Ebert	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> April 18, 2018	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 15:00
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Logan County	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Jeff Reeves	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 112c - Construction Regular Operation	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Normal I&E Program	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> None	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> No Bond Held	
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> None	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None	
<b>WEATHER:</b> Clear	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> April 23, 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>NA</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>NA</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----- <u>Y</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>NA</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>Y</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>NA</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>Y</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>NA</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>N</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 was a monitoring inspection of the Kokes Pit, DRMS File No. M-1978-249 operated by Logan County. I, Jared Ebert with the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (DRMS or Division) conducted the inspection. Mr. Jeff Reeves with Logan County accompanied me during the inspection.

This is a 32.25 acre 112c operation that is no longer being actively mined but is under reclamation. The site was mined for sand and the post mining land use approved for the site is rangeland.

#### **Backfilling and Grading:**

Mining is complete at the site and it appears mining occurred into a hillside above an intermittent creek. The excavated area daylights to the northeast with a fairly gentle pit floor. The affected area has been backfilled and graded leaving a gentle slope that appears to be set at a 3H:1V angle or less. Erosion rills and gullies were not observed.

#### **Reclamation Success:**

At this point it appears all the reclamation steps have been completed. The site has been backfilled and graded so that the topography blends in well with the surrounding area. Logan County has imported topsoil material and spread it over the affected area. According to Mr. Reeves, the affected area was seeded in 2017. At this time very little desired species were observed at the site. The dominant plants that have established is annual weeds such as Kochia and a type of mustard. It is typical for annual weed species to volunteer into a recently reclaimed area for the first several growing seasons, however Logan County should continue to monitor this site closely and may need to re-seed the affected land.

#### **Revegetation:**

The desired vegetation has not established sufficiently at this time. Logan County will need to monitor this site and may possibly need to re-seed the affected area.

Rosettes of some type of noxious thistle (possibly Canada or Bull thistle) was also observed throughout the affected land. After the inspection, Logan County dispatched a weed control company to the site to evaluate treatment of the thistle. The Division appreciates this rapid response. Logan County is considering a spring and/or fall treatment of the thistle. Weed control should occur before these plants go to seed. The Division recommends an aggressive approach to treating these weed by both a spring and fall treatment over the next several years. Logan County will need to closely monitor this site several times a year until the site is released to insure these weeds are controlled. Properly timed mowing to prevent seed heads/flowers from developing may be necessary. The most effective control method will be to have the desired vegetation become established.

#### **Sediment Control:**

The site appeared stable and the vegetation cover has helped prevent significant rills and gullies from forming.

#### **Topsoil:**

The Division is aware that Logan County imported topsoil material and spread it throughout the affected area.

**PHOTOGRAPHS**



**Figure 1. From near the center of the site at the base of the pit slope looking northwest.**



**Figure 2. From the top of the pit slope near the center of the site looking southeast.**





**Figure 3. From the top of the pit slope looking northeast.**



**Figure 4. Thistle rosettes.**

**Inspection Contact Address**

Jeff Reeves  
Logan County  
12603 CR 33  
Sterling, CO 80751

EC: Jeff Reeves, Logan County [reevesj@logancountyco.gov](mailto:reevesj@logancountyco.gov)