



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: 19 Road Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-2002-110	MINERAL: Sand and gravel	COUNTY: Mesa
INSPECTION TYPE: OSM Follow-up Inspection	INSPECTOR(S): Amy C. Yeldell	INSP. DATE: June 7, 2018	INSP. TIME: 12:30
OPERATOR: Oldcastle SW Group, Inc. dba United Compai County	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Tyra Monger	TYPE OF OPERATION: 110c - Construction Limited Impact	
REASON FOR INSPECTION: Surety Release Requested	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: None	BOND AMOUNT: \$49,157.00	
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None	
WEATHER: Clear	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: June 18, 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>Y</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>Y</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>N</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>N</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>Y</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>N</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>N</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>Y</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 by the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) as a follow up to the SL-1 denial letter sent on May 22, 2018. The operator has requested additional guidance of how to obtain successful reclamation and ultimately a permit release. Mr. Burkey felt that direct communication with field staff would better facilitate this process.

The 19 Road Pit is a 110c permitted site that includes a total of 9.75 acres. This site is located approximately two miles southeast of Fruita, Colorado. It is accessed from River Road and 19 Road. Amy Yeldell of the Division conducted the inspection. Tyra Monger represented United Companies and Paul Schreiner with Eco-Rx, Inc., United's weed applicator, was also present.

SL-1 was denied based on the fact that site wide the permit did not meet the requirements of the approved reclamation plan. In several areas noxious weeds were outcompeting desirable vegetation. The Division did take into account that this site is generally the sink rather than the source. It was determined that better weed management on the operator's part would likely yield more successful reclamation. Lack of desirable vegetation was the other determining factor in this release request denial. Though a two track road around the pond is permitted the Division did not feel that large areas void of vegetation fell in that category. Furthermore pond slopes not within the two track right of way were also void of vegetation either desirable or otherwise. The Division does acknowledge that civil work such as grading and topsoil replacement has been completed as per the approved reclamation plan.

TR-3 designated a permanent location for horse corrals. There appears to be some residual impacts from where horses may have previously been grazed on reclaimed lands. Unfortunately regardless of if at one time vegetation was adequate, at the time of the release it was not. Moving forward if these areas have compaction problems the operator may wish to rip or disk the areas prior to seeding. Bald patches adjacent to thick vegetation may also indicate problems other than reclamation techniques.

During the inspection Mr. Schreiner indicated that based on dead vegetation and bald patches it appears that a non-selective herbicide has been used. That type of herbicide will kill all plants rather than targeting a specific noxious species. There were several patches where vegetation was completely void, dead bunch grass crowns were observed and only new emerging Kochia grew.

Later on in the inspection the landowner was checking her mail and came over for a chat. She did indicate that they hire someone to spray their weeds. She indicated that she was unaware of Oldcastle's responsibility to treated weeds within the permit area. Both the Division and Mr. Schreiner explained to her that the type of chemicals currently being used are detrimental to reclamation success. Mr. Schreiner attempted to educate her on what chemicals would be appropriate and gave her his card with them written down as well as if she had future questions. He let her know that after the inspection he would be spraying. In addition the Division explained to the landowner that as long as a permit is active land management is the operator's responsibility, not theirs. The Division kindly requested that they leave all reclamation and weed treatments within the permit boundary up to the operator since they are the responsible party. Lastly, the Division requested that she keep her horses within the approved coral limits and to not let them graze in unreleased reclamation. She was informed that she will receive formal written notice when the permit is released and she should take over land management.

The previous inspection report noted weeds as a problem and required treatments as a corrective action. During this inspection it was discussed that the time for treatments has now passed. The Division will accept a written commitment to treatment infestations when timing allows as an acceptable corrective action. The plan needs to be species specific and include the plan for treatment and timing.

Lastly, possibly changing the seed mix to something more resilient was also discussed. If the operator wishes to change the seed mix they will first need to submit a technical revision. If a new seed mix is adopted, other areas that have been successfully reclaimed with the old mix would be acceptable as long as desirable vegetation is present.

The operator is encouraged to submit a partial acreage release for those areas where desirable vegetation has been established.

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



Bare soil patches adjacent to dense vegetation. Only young Kochia present.



Vegetation on road and slope bare, only dead crowns and new Kochia present.



Area where reclamation has continued to thrive. Some patchiness in bottom left corner.



Vegetation resistant to traffic on road around lake. Varying vegetation densities.

Inspection Contact Address

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Enclosure

EC: Wally Erickson, Senior EPS, GJFO DRMS