


**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: Moon Pit No 2	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1977-443	MINERAL: Sand and gravel	COUNTY: Moffat
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	INSPECTOR(S): Amy C. Yeldell	INSP. DATE: July 10, 2018	INSP. TIME: 17:00
OPERATOR: Northwest Aggregates, Inc.	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: None	TYPE OF OPERATION: 110c - Construction	
REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: Complete Bond	BOND AMOUNT: \$16,357.00	
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS:	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None	
WEATHER: Clear	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: July 19, 2018	

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>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>PB</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>Y</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>N</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>Y</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>NA</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>NA</u>	

Y = Inspected / N = Not inspected / NA = Not applicable to this operation / PB = Problem cited / PV = Possible violation cited

The following inspection topic was identified as having a Problem. OPERATORS SHOULD READ THE FOLLOWING PAGES CAREFULLY IN ORDER TO ASSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE PERMIT AND APPLICABLE RULES AND REGULATIONS.

INSPECTION TOPIC: Revegetation

PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION: Problem: There are state-listed noxious weeds present on site. This is a problem for failure to employ weed control methods for state listed noxious weed species within the permitted area, and to reduce the spread of weeds to nearby areas as required by Section 3.1.10 (6) of the rule.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: 1) The operator should treat all weeds by the corrective action date and submit photo documentation proof. 2) A follow up treatment of all noxious weeds should be conducted 30 days following the first treatment to evaluate the effectiveness and treat any resistant weeds. Submit notification upon completion. 3) The operator shall develop a weed control and management plan in accordance with Section 3.1.10 (6) of the Rule. This plan should be developed in consultation with the county extension agency, or weed control district office and should include specific control measures to be applied, a schedule for when control measures will be applied and a post-treatment monitoring plan. This weed control plan shall be submitted to the Division as a Technical Revision to the approved plan with the appropriate Technical Revision fee of \$216.00 by the corrective action date.

CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE: 9/17/18

OBSERVATIONS

This inspection was conducted as part of the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) normal monitoring program. Amy Yeldell of the Division conducted the inspection. The Moon Pit is a 110c permitted site that includes a total of 9.95 acres, of which nearly all has been disturbed. This site is located 13 miles west of Craig, CO and is accessed from Highway 40 and County Road 15.

The mine identification sign and affected area boundary markers are in place and in compliance with Rule 3.1.12. The Division would like to note that the mine sign though present was lying face down on the ground. It is recommended that the sign be reinstalled on the t-post.

This site was inactive at the time of the inspection. Based on the amount of volunteer vegetation on the pit floor it has likely been inactive for quite some time. The date of last activity has not been given for the last few annual report so staff is unsure of the last activity. The operator is reminded that even with intermittent status a mining operation shall be active annually, though not required to operator more than 180 days a year. If mining ceases for more than 180 days the operation should be put into temporary cessation.

A processing plant and conveyor remain on site in the same position as the 2015 inspection. The highwall also appears to be in a similar manner as in previous inspections. Well established vegetation exists at the base of the highwall due to lack of traffic. No fuel, buildings or misc. debris were on site.

The site was infested with Scotch thistle. Tamarisk and knapweed were also present. This is cited as a problem. 1) The operator should treat all weeds by the corrective action date. 2) A follow up treatment of all noxious weeds should be conducted 30 days following the first treatment to evaluate the effectiveness and treat any resistant weeds. 3) Develop a noxious weed management plan and submit it in the form of a technical revision

by the corrective action date. The majority of this infestation was in the recently reclaimed areas. These reclaimed areas should be aggressively monitored and treated as needed to prevent a delay in reclamation release.

The Division currently requires a financial warranty amount of \$16,357 for this site. The bond was last recalculated with AM-1 in 2012. 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

EC: Wally Erickson, Senior EPS, Grand Junction DRMS

Inspection Contact Address

Jon Muller
Northwest Aggregates, Inc.
556 Struthers Ave
Grand Junction, CO 81501

Enclosure

PHOTOGRAPHS





Pit overview



Reclaimed slope with scotch thistle



Existing highwall with volunteer
vegetation on pit floor



Knapweed in the riparian area

