



**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> Hartman Pit	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1997-087	<b>MINERAL:</b> Gravel	<b>COUNTY:</b> Pueblo
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Surety Release Inspection	<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Elliott R. Russell	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> May 24, 2018	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 09:00
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Arnolds Custom Seeding, LLC	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> None	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 112c - Construction Regular Operation	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Surety Release Requested	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> None	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$139,285.00	
<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> July 23, 2018	

### GENERAL INSPECTION TOPICS

This list identifies the environmental and permit parameters inspected. 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>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>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

## **OBSERVATIONS**

This inspection was conducted after the Division received a full release request (SL-02) on April 2, 2018. James Simpson, representing the Operator, was contacted prior to the inspection, but was not able to accompany the Division.

The Hartman Pit is 112c Operation and is approved to affect 240 permitted acres. Affected lands will be reclaimed to support rangeland post-mining land use. The mine is located approximately 3 miles south of Vineland, Colorado in Pueblo County.

Availability Of Records: The Annual Report, Map, and Fee for 2018 is delinquent. In order to avoid enforcement actions and civil penalties, the Operator will need to submit the 2018 Annual Report, Map, and Fee no later than 60 days past the permit's anniversary date (June 15, 2018), due August 14, 2018. The previous inspection was on June 27, 2016. There are no open infractions. After finding SL-02 complete, on April 3, 2018, the Division notified the landowner, the Pueblo County Commissions, and the South Pueblo County Conservation District of the Operator's request to be released from reclamation responsibility. To date, the Division has not received any comments nor objections to the full release request.

Backfilling and Grading: All slopes appeared to be appropriately backfilled and/or graded except the three areas, identified following the June 27, 2016 inspection, which still did not meet the approved Reclamation Plan. These three areas observed are located at the edges of three mined-out "gravelly fingers" and consist of approximately 2H:1V slopes starting at the pit floor up to undisturbed topography. Please refer to attached inspection report map for the specific location of these areas. The approved Reclamation Plan states that the mining operation will not create backslopes as the operation consists solely of removing the tops of the gravel knolls, creating a level pit floor. The approved Reclamation Plan Maps also reflects this with post-mining contours showing that the margins of the operation would day-light to existing topography. It appears the mining operation did not fully mine out the knolls, leaving these slopes. Since the approved Reclamation Plan and Map are different than the current conditions, the Operator will need to either grade these areas flat OR submit a Technical Revision (TR-02) to the permit revising the Reclamation Plan and Reclamation Plan Map. Attached is the Division's Technical Revision cover sheet, which can also be found on the Division website.

Hydrologic Balance: No standing water nor exposed groundwater was observed during the inspection.

Reclamation Success: Reclamation efforts performed at the mining operation appear to have been partially successful. The site consists of a large barren area, approximately 19 acres in size, in the central portion of the disturbance that has yet to meet revegetation standards. Note, the access road and ½ acre stockpile is located within this area, however with the approval of TR-01 in 2007, these features will remain after reclamation is complete. The attached inspection report map depicts the approximate 19-acre barren area. The Division has included the coordinates of this area should the Operator wish to pursue an acreage reduction.

Revegetation: Outside of the barren area discussed above, the Division observed a healthy landscape with a diverse vegetative cover including blue grama, sideoats grama, switchgrass, and buffalo grasses. The vegetative cover appears to match adjacent off-site areas. Although the site was treated for tamarisk, a noxious weed List B species, in 2016, the Operator will need to re-treat the remaining tamarisk observed across the site.

Sediment Control: The site appeared stable and showed no signs of erosion.

Conclusion: The Division cannot approve the SL-02 release request at this time due to the above mentioned issues.

**Action Items:**

- **Submit the delinquent 2018 Annual Report, Map, and Fee.**
- **Submit TR-02 addressing a revision to the Reclamation Plan and Reclamation Plan Map to account for the three areas with 2H:1V slopes OR grade the areas flat.**
- **Re-treat and control the tamarisk on-site.**

Once the above action items are completed, the Division could entertain an Acreage Reduction Request to release 221 acres of permitted lands with the 19 acres discussed above remaining, and a Surety Reduction Request to release all of the financial warranty associated with completed tasks. The Division has calculated a preliminary estimate for the amount of financial warranty which will need to remain in place for the 19 acres at \$54,000, thus potentially \$85,000 could be released following a Surety Reduction Request.

This concludes the Division's Inspection Report; a subset of photographs taken during the time of the inspection are included below. If you need additional information or have any questions, please contact me at Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203, by telephone at **303-866-3567 x8132**, or by email at [elliott.russell@state.co.us](mailto:elliott.russell@state.co.us).

**PHOTOGRAPHS**



Mine identification sign posted at the entrance to the site; looking west.





Sample photo of a portion of the permit with successful reclamation; looking south.



Sample photo of a portion of the permit with successful reclamation; looking north.





Sample photo of the difference between successful and unsuccessful reclamation; looking east.



Sample photo of the large barren area; looking south.





Sample photo of the large barren area; looking south.



Sample photo of the large barren area; looking north.





Sample photo of the large barren area; looking east.



Tamarisk needing to be controlled; looking northwest.





Tamarisk needing to be controlled; looking north.

**Inspection Contact Address**

James Simpson  
Arnolds Custom Seeding, LLC  
4626 WCR 65  
Keenesburg, CO 80643

Attachment: 5-24-18 Inspection Report Map M1997087

Enclosure: Technical Revision Cover Sheet

CC: Michael Cunningham, DRMS



# Inspection Report Map

Hartman Pit (M-1997-087)  
Inspection Date: 5/24/18  
Aerial Image Dated: 8/28/13  
Created by ERR on 7/23/18



**Legend**

Approximate 19-Acre Area

Approximate Permit Boundary

Areas with 2H:1V Slopes



1000 ft