




**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> Nichols Gravel Pit	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1981-013	<b>MINERAL:</b> Sand and gravel	<b>COUNTY:</b> Mesa
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Amy C. Yeldell	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> July 26, 2018	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 13:30
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Nichols Gravel Pit, L.L.P.	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> John Nichols	<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> \$72,600.00	
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> DRMS	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None	
<b>WEATHER:</b> Cloudy	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> August 10, 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>NA</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- <u>NA</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----- <u>Y</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>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

## **OBSERVATIONS**

This inspection was conducted as part of the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) normal monitoring program. The Nichols Gravel Pit is a 112c permitted site that includes a total of 67.5 acres. This site is located two miles northeast of Mesa, CO and is accessed from State Highway 330. John Nichols represented Nichols Gravel Pit, L.L.P. and accompanied Amy Yeldell of the Division on the inspection.

The mine identification sign and affected area boundary markers are in place and in compliance with Rule 3.1.12. The mine sign has been corrected since the last inspection.

There is a scale and scale house near the lower pit entrance. In the northeast corner of the pit are some steel drums and other various debris. This is used to conduct drills by the Sheriff's Department. The Division requests that this material be stored neatly as to not interfere with mining activities when not in use.

An empty fuel tank and conveyor remain on site from that last crushing operation. The equipment belongs to Moffat Limestone Company. No other mining equipment is on site. The last significant crushing operation took place in 2013. Current mining activity is selling out of existing stockpiles until they are depleted. Equipment will be remobilized if the market supports future mining. There are numerous stockpiles throughout the pit, all of varying size. The stockpile slopes appear to be stable.

Topsoil is stored on the upper perimeter around the pit excavation. There are two levels within the pit. The lower floor can be excavated approximately 10-15 feet deeper before encountering water. The operator plans to stop mining before water is encountered. The operation has the ability to move further south however it is unlikely that that entire permit area will be disturbed. Mr. Nichols indicated that they will likely just exhaust the current disturbed footprint rather than increasing the total disturbed area. The upper eastern pit floor is approximately 20 feet higher than the lower western section of the pit. Approximately 20 acres are disturbed by mining.

Vegetation has begun to volunteer in areas due to idleness. Amongst the grasses that have volunteered there is a small amount of noxious weeds such as scotch thistle and tamarisk. This is not cited as a problem at this time but the operator is urged to aggressively manage weeds within the pit to prevent future infestations. Overall the site appears stable with no signs of excessive erosion.

The Division currently requires a financial warranty amount of \$72,600 for this site. 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

**Inspection Contact Address**

John Nichols  
Nichols Gravel Pit, L.L.P.  
P.O. Box 285  
Mesa, CO 81643

Enclosure

EC:  
Wally Erickson, Senior EPS, Grand Junction DRMS

**PHOTOGRAPHS**







Scale and scale house



Overview of lower bench



Near vertical highwalls on upper bench



Stockpiled material on upper bench





Overview of lower bench from upper bench