


**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> Douglas Mountain Mine	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-2018-016	<b>MINERAL:</b> Sand and gravel	<b>COUNTY:</b> Clear Creek
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Preoperation Inspection	<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Peter S. Hays	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> August 6, 2018	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 09:00
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Empire Aggregate, Inc.	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Ben Langenfeld	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 112c - Construction Regular Operation	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Pre-Operation Inspection	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> Complete Bond	<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> August 13, 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>N</u>	(FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY----- <u>N</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>N</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>N</u>	(BG) BACKFILL & GRADING----- <u>N</u>	(EX) EXPLOSIVES----- <u>N</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- <u>N</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>N</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>N</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>N</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>N</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>N</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>N</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>N</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>N</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>N</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>N</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>N</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 was a pre-operational inspection of the proposed Douglas Mountain Mine conducted by Peter Hays with the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division/DRMS). Mr. Ben Langenfeld with Greg Lewicki and Associates, Mr. Joseph Walter with Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Mr. Adam Springer with Clear Creek County, Mr. Lance Baller and Mr. Chris Townsend with Empire Aggregate, Inc. and Mr. Harlan Pals with Douglas Mountain Ranch and Reserve were present during the inspection.

The 112 construction materials permit application was received by the Division on April 18, 2018. The application was deemed complete on May 14, 2018. The Applicant published public notice as required by Rule 1.6.2(d) for four consecutive weeks. The last notice was published on June 20, 2018. The public comment for the application ended on July 10, 2018. Two hundred and fifty three (253) letters of objection to the application were received by the Division during the public comment period. Copies of the objection letters were sent to the Operator for review and response. The notice sign was observed at the entrance to the site from CR 257 as required by Rule 1.6.2(b). The Division's permit application adequacy letter was sent to the Applicant on August 9, 2018. The current decision date for the application is August 31, 2018, following the approval of a decision date extension request by the Applicant on August 7, 2018.

A wildlife officer with Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) was present during the inspection to discuss the CPW objection letter comments. The potential mitigation measures required to address the three (3) biological concerns regarding the proposed mining operation; the bighorn sheep herd in the vicinity of the proposed mine and truck routes, an active peregrine falcon nest buffer and the elk winter range at the proposed mine location were discussed during the inspection. Officer Walter's stated he would discuss the proposed mitigation measures with the appropriate CPW biologist for each species of concern and be in contact with the Applicant to discuss the mitigation measures further.

The Douglas Mountain Mine is a proposed 91.6 acre construction materials site located in Clear Creek County. The proposed mine site is currently an undisturbed plateau. The Applicant estimates the minable sand and gravel deposit is more than 200 feet deep with 12 inches of topsoil above the deposit. The life of mine is estimated at 20 years. The mining excavation would start in the southeast corner of the terrace and proceed to the north and west towards Empire, CO and the West Fork of Clear Creek. The overall mine slope would be maintained at a minimum 3H:1V slope. Mining activities, excavation and processing, would occur between 9 to 12 months a year weather permitting. The Applicant does not expect the mining activity to intercept the groundwater elevation.

The proposed reclamation plan states 77.5 acres of disturbance would be reclaimed to rangeland. The site access road and internal roads would remain post-reclamation for the landowner's use. Reclamation is planned to occur concurrently as mining progresses. The reclamation activities would include replacement of topsoil to a depth of 12 inches, seeding with a rangeland seed mixture, mulching and weed control measures.

The proposed mine site was observed during the inspection. The proposed mine site was as described by the Applicant in the permit application consisting of a well-vegetated grassland plateau bisected from east to west by a two-track road, a gas line and an overhead powerline. Photographs taken during the inspection are attached.

## PHOTOGRAPHS



Douglas Mountain Mine notice sign



Access road from CR 257 looking west





View towards the West Fork of Clear Creek from northeast corner of the site looking north



View of the site near the middle of the site looking east





View of the site near the middle of the site looking south



View of the site near the middle of the site looking west





View of site from the west gate looking east



View of site from the southeast corner looking west





View of site from the southeast corner looking northwest



View of site from the southeast corner looking northeast



View of site from the southeast corner looking east

**Inspection Contact Address**

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Ec: Michael Cunningham, DRMS