



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: Branson Gravel Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1997-100	MINERAL: Gravel	COUNTY: Las Animas
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	INSPECTOR(S): Jared L. Ebert	INSP. DATE: March 19, 2019	INSP. TIME: 11:55
OPERATOR: Las Animas County	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Allen Winford	TYPE OF OPERATION: 112c - Construction Regular Operation	

REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: None	BOND AMOUNT: \$0.00
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None
WEATHER: Cloudy	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: March 27, 2019

The following inspection topics were identified as having Problems or Possible Violations. OPERATORS SHOULD READ THE FOLLOWING PAGES CAREFULLY IN ORDER TO ASSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE PERMIT AND APPLICABLE RULES AND REGULATIONS. If a Possible Violation is indicated, you will be notified under separate cover as to when the Mined Land Reclamation Board will consider possible enforcement action.

INSPECTION TOPIC: Signs & Markers

PROBLEM: The affected area boundary markers are missing or incorrectly placed. This is a problem for failure to maintain boundary markers around the affected area as required by Section 3.1.12(2) of the rule.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: The operator shall conduct a survey and replace the boundary markers in the correct location(s). The operator shall provide proof to the Division that this has been done by the corrective action date.

CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE: 4/30/19

OBSERVATIONS

This was a monitoring inspection of the Branson Pit, Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (DRMS or Division) permit number M-1997-100, operated by Las Animas County. I, Jared Ebert with the DRMS conducted the inspection. Mr. Allen Winford with Las Animas County accompanied me during the inspection.

This is a 112c mining operation with an approved permit area of 39.9 acres. The mining plan calls for mining the top of two mesas. Mining began in the eastern most area and is currently operating in western most area. The Operator was actively mining at the time of the inspection. The approved post-mine land use is designated as rangeland.

Backfilling and Grading:

The permit area encompasses two small mesas bisected by a small draw. Mining appears to be complete on the eastern mesa. The top of the eastern mesa is gently sloped with a small berm of soil or excess mined material around the perimeter of the excavated area.

The western mesa is where active mining is occurring. A bowl shaped pit excavation has occurred on the western mesa. The active mining face consists of a near vertical highwall with a northern aspect at the top of the mesa. The remaining pit slopes are generally at the angle of repose.

Hydrologic Balance:

The excavation appeared dry and off-site sedimentation was not observed.

Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan:

Mining appears to be advancing in accordance with the approved mining plan. Processing equipment was in place and functioning on the east side of the western mesa.

Off-site Damage:

The Division was only able to locate several of the permit boundary markers surrounding the base of the eastern mesa, however the remainder of the boundary markers were not in place. Given this, it could not be determined if off-site areas had been affected by the mining operation. Crushed and mined material is stockpiled along where the Division believed the southern boundary of the permit area is located between the eastern and western mesas. This pile is likely very close to the southern permit boundary. Also, the Operator's contractor has parked equipment likely near the southern boundary. DRMS will require Las Animas County to mark the permit boundary and take additional precautions to not affect land outside of the approved permit boundary.

Reclamation Success:

Overall, mining appears to be complete in the eastern mesa. Las Animas County is encouraged to spread any remaining topsoil material over the affected land and complete reclamation of this area.

Revegetation:

Little to no vegetation has established in the eastern mining area.

Topsoil:

One topsoil stockpile was located very close to the processing equipment and the active mining area. Las Animas County must use caution and not affect this pile by the continued mining operation.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Figure 1. From the southeast end of the eastern mining area looking west/northwest.



Figure 2. From the east end of the western mining area looking west. Topsoil stockpile circled in red.



Figure 3. From the north end of the western mining area looking south.



Figure 4. From the north end of the western mining area looking west.



Figure 5. Processing equipment on the east side of the western mining area.



Figure 6. Processing equipment on the east side of the western mining area.

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>NA</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>Y</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>PB</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>N</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>NA</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

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