


**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: Yocam Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1999-060	MINERAL: Gravel	COUNTY: Las Animas
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	INSPECTOR(S): Jared L. Ebert	INSP. DATE: March 19, 2019	INSP. TIME: 14:00
OPERATOR: Las Animas County	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Ricky Torres	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: Clear	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: Topsoil

PROBLEM: The topsoil stockpiles do not have established vegetation on them and are therefore susceptible to erosion. Rule 3.1.9(1) states if topsoil is not replaced into the backfill area within a time short enough to avoid deterioration of the topsoil, vegetative cover or other means shall be employed so that the topsoil is protected from erosion.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: The operator shall seed the stockpiles with the seed mix that was submitted as part of the approved Reclamation Plan. The Operator shall demonstrate compliance by submitting seed tags, a bill of sale or photographs of seeding activities. The Operator may also request a follow up inspection.

CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE: 4/30/19

OBSERVATIONS

This was a monitoring inspection of the Yocam Pit, Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (DRMS or Division) permit number M-1999-060, operated by Las Animas County. I, Jared Ebert with DRMS conducted the inspection. Mr. Ricky Torres with Las Animas County accompanied me during the inspection.

This is 112c mining operation with an approved permit area of 67.3 acres. The approved post-mining land use designated for this site is rangeland. Mining has been initiated in the southwest portion of the permit area.

Backfilling and Grading:

A small pit excavation exists in the southwest portion of the permit area. The pit is about five to ten feet deep with near vertical to angle of repose side slopes. Overburden and waste rock is piled above the pit excavation readily available for backfill.

Northwest of the active pit area is a portion of the affected land that appears to have been partially reclaimed. The former pit slopes daylight to the southwest and appears to have been graded to a 3H:1V ratio or gentler angle.

Hydrologic Balance:

This pit was dry at the time of the inspection.

Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan:

The approved mine plan indicates the operator will mine ten acres at one time. The current pit excavation appears to be below this threshold. The latest annual reclamation report indicates about 11.3 acres of land has been affected by the mining operation. A portion of this area northwest of the active pit area has been graded and partially reclaimed.

Roads:

A small access road leads to the pit excavation.

Reclamation Success:

A portion of the affected land appears partially reclaimed northwest of the active pit area. Sparse vegetation has established in this area. However, according to Mr. Torres, they may continue mining in this area.

Topsoil:

Las Animas County has stripped topsoil and stockpiled it to the northeast and southwest of the active pit. The topsoil stockpiles had little to no vegetation established to stabilize them from wind and water erosion. This is an intermittent operation and it appears topsoil stockpiles will need to be in place for long periods of time before they are used for reclamation and thus will need to be stabilized. This issue is cited as a problem at the beginning of the report.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Figure 1. From the northeast corner of the active pit area looking south.



Figure 2. From the northeast corner of the active pit looking southwest.



Figure 3. From the southeast corner of the active pit looking north.



Figure 4. From the southwest corner of the active pit area looking northwest at partially reclaimed area.

GENERAL INSPECTION TOPICS

The following list identifies the environmental and permit parameters inspected and gives a categorical evaluation of each

(AR) RECORDS-----	<u>NA</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>NA</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES-----	<u>NA</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL-----	<u>PB</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE-	<u>Y</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE-----	<u>Y</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION----	<u>NA</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 and found in compliance / N = Not inspected / NA = Not applicable to this operation / PB = Problem cited / PV = Possible violation cited

Inspection Contact Address

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