


**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> Adams Pit	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1983-177	<b>MINERAL:</b> Sand and gravel	<b>COUNTY:</b> Bent
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Amy Eschberger	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> March 7, 2019	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 10:45
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Bent County	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Robert Darnell	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 110c - Construction Limited Impact	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Normal I&E Program	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> None	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$0.00	
<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> April 10, 2019	

**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>NA</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>Y</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>Y</u>	(BG) BACKFILL & GRADING----- <u>Y</u>	(EX) EXPLOSIVES----- <u>N</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- <u>N</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>N</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>Y</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>Y</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>N</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>Y</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>Y</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>Y</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>Y</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>N</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>Y</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 normal monitoring inspection of the Adams Pit (Permit No. M-1983-177) conducted by Amy Eschberger of the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division). The operator, Bent County was represented by Robert Darnell during the inspection. The site is located approximately 29 miles south of Las Animas, CO, just two miles north of the southern county border. Access to the site is from the east off Co Rd 10. The site is situated on an ephemeral creek called Johnny Branch Creek, which must be crossed to access the mining area. **Photos 1-8** taken during the inspection are included with this report.

This is a 110c operation permitted for 9.30 acres to mine sand and gravel from a creek terrace deposit for use in construction and maintenance of county roads (see enclosed Google Earth image of site). Excavation activities are limited to the western terrace of the creek. Mined material is directly hauled off site for use or temporarily stockpiled in the excavation area until needed. Any topsoil salvaged during mining is stored west of the creek. The approved post-mining land use for the site is rangeland. For reclamation, mined slopes will be graded to 3H:1V or flatter, retopsoiled at a depth of 6 inches, and revegetated with a native grass mixture recommended by the Soil Conservation Service.

The site was not active during the inspection. The operation was approved for intermittent status in 2013 to operate for less than 180 days per year. According to the operator, recent activities have primarily included hauling off from stockpiled material. A permit sign was posted at the main site entrance off Co Rd 10. The corners of the permit boundary were marked with t-posts and half-buried tires. An east-facing highwall approximately 900 feet in length and 10 feet in height runs adjacent to the western creek bank. The highwall has near vertical slope gradients. A few material stockpiles were stored near the highwall. A small topsoil stockpile was stored on the pit floor. No significant erosion issues were observed. Native grasses are volunteering across much of the disturbed area.

No standing water was observed on site, and the adjacent creek bed was dry. The creek bed appeared to be undisturbed by the operation, besides the crossing area. The crossing area does not include any alterations that would obstruct creek flow.

The operation appears to be following the approved mining plan. However, a portion of the highwall at the southwestern edge of the site is currently very close to the western permit boundary. Therefore, the operator should be careful not to disturb land outside the approved permit boundary in this area, especially when reclaiming this portion of the highwall. The Division estimates the operation has disturbed a total of 2.9 acres. No problems were observed.

This concludes the report.



### **PHOTOGRAPHS**



**Photo 1.** View looking northeast at portion of creek crossed by operation to access mining area west of the creek. Note creek dry during inspection.



**Photo 2.** View looking west across excavation area, showing highwall in background. Note native grasses volunteering across disturbed area.





**Photo 3.** View looking west across excavation area, showing portion of highwall and a few small material stockpiles stored near highwall.



**Photo 4.** View looking west across excavation area, showing portion of highwall, which is approximately 10 feet in height with near vertical slopes.





**Photo 5.** View looking north/northeast from southwestern corner of permit boundary, marked by a T-post and half-buried tire.



**Photo 6.** View looking southeast across excavation area from top of highwall, showing a few material stockpiles stored on pit floor.





**Photo 7.** View looking northeast across excavation area from top of highwall.



**Photo 8.** View looking south at (dry) creek bed from top of terrace along western edge of creek. The mine excavation is located further south from this point.

**Inspection Contact Address**

Calvin Feik  
Bent County  
P.O. Box 350  
Las Animas, CO 81054

Encl: Google Earth image of site

CC: Michael Cunningham, DRMS



# M-1983-177 / Adams Pit / Bent County

Red Outline = 9.3 acres = Approved Permit Area (approximate location based on approved mining plan map)  
(Image data from 3/19/2016)

