


**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: Rocky Flat Gravel	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1982-129	MINERAL: Sand and gravel	COUNTY: Huerfano
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	INSPECTOR(S): Patrick Lennberg	INSP. DATE: March 28, 2019	INSP. TIME: 12:00
OPERATOR: L. Otto Goemmer	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Pete Goemmer	TYPE OF OPERATION: 110c - Construction Limited Impact	

REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: Complete Bond	BOND AMOUNT: \$11,050.00
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None
WEATHER: Clear	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: April 11, 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: Hydrologic Balance**PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION:** The site is improperly impounding surface drainage/runoff.**CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:** Operator shall remove impediments to proper surface drainage and backfill the area two feet above the current water surface level. Or, submit documentation from the State Engineer's Office demonstrating that the impoundment of water in this pit is authorized by that office.**CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE:** 6/10/19**INSPECTION TOPIC:** Reclamation Success**PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION:** Reclamation has not been carried to completion within five years of last mining activity at the site as required by Rule 3.1.3.**CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:** The operator shall, once all final grading is completed, seed with approved seed mixture the regraded portions of the site and suitably restrict grazing during the initial establishment. It is anticipated that final grading will not be completed until sometime in the summer so fall planting is expected. The operator shall submit documentation that seeding has been completed by the corrective action date.**CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE:** 11/15/19

INSPECTION TOPIC: Signs & Markers

PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION: The mine identification sign was not posted at the entrance of the mine site. This is a problem for failure to post a mine identification sign as required by Section 3.1.12(1) of the rule.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: The operator shall, at the entrance of the mine site, post a sign which shall be clearly visible from the access road with the following: the name of the operator, a statement that a reclamation permit for the operation has been issued by the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board; and the permit number. The operator shall submit photo documentation that a proper sign has been posted by the corrective action date.

CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE: 6/10/19

OBSERVATIONS

The Rocky Flat Gravel Pit was inspected by Patrick Lennberg with the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division/DRMS). The inspection was completed as part of the Division's routine monitoring inspection program. The site was last inspected on July 26, 2013 as part of a compliance advisory regarding illegal disposal of solid waste. Pete Goemmer was present during the inspection. The weather was windy, and the sky was clear.

The Rocky Flat Gravel Pit is located approximately 2 miles southwest of La Veta, Colorado. The approved post-mining land use is rangeland. A mine sign was observed but is extremely faded and not legible. Because the sign is not clearly visible, pursuant to Rule 3.1.12, it is being cited as a problem in this inspection report and should be replaced.

This is a 9.9 acre 110c operation with three distinct parcels of land. The original permit area was for approximately 7.5 acres; during an amendment (AM01) the Operator added 2.28 acres of land east of the original area and .22 acres to the south. The 2.28 acre area is above where the primary pit basin is located and has been graded to create a flat plain. Grass has established in this portion of the site but cattle are allowed to graze the area surrounding and within permit boundary. The .22 acre parcel is also a flat.

The original 7.5 acre permit area consists of a small basin where previous mining activity occurred. The basin daylighted to the south. The north, west and eastern aspect slopes have been graded to a 4:1 horizontal to vertical ratio or less. The slopes appeared stable and grass has established throughout the affected land. Lafarge operated a site directly to the north of this area known as the La Veta Pit (M- 2001 - 086). The northern boundary of the Rocky Flat Gravel Pit and the Lafarge excavation is separated by a berm. According to the Division's files the purpose of the berm was to keep water from flowing from the Rocky Flat Gravel Pit into the Lafarge site.

At the time of this inspection it was observed that approximately 0.45 acres of exposed groundwater and/or stormwater had been impounded at the site at the location of the berm. Prior inspections at the site had noted impounded water at the same location. The impounding of water is being cited as a problem in this inspection report. The Operator will be required to establish permanent positive drainage in the area to ensure that the water that is currently exposed is not groundwater, and backfill two feet above the current water surface level.

The area is grazed periodically by cattle. Vegetation within the permit area was at least as well established as that on the surrounding area. The operator will need to monitor and treat weeds at the site in order to prepare the site for potential release in the future.

The site was not active at the time of inspection and has not been active for a number of years. Pursuant to Rule 3.1.3 all reclamation shall be carried to completion within five years of last mining activity, failure to complete reclamation in the time specified is being cited as a problem in this report. Once regrading has been completed to cure the hydrologic problem cited above the area shall be reseeded with the approved seed mixture. Due to the timing of the expected regrading it is anticipated that a fall seeding will need to occur, between November 1 and April 30. The reseeded areas shall have suitable restrictions to grazing during the initial establishment, pursuant to Rule 3.1.10(4). The Division encourages the Operator to seek release of the

site after two growing seasons or when the Operator feels that vegetation has suitably been established for release.

The Operator indicated that they were holding onto the permit in hopes that a need for gravel would come soon. The Division would like to remind the Operator that if a need arose they could seek a new 110 permit or if a quicker turn-around time was needed they could apply for a 111 permit which has an expedited approval time line .

The bond was recalculated as a part of this inspection and the current bond amount was determined to be adequate.

Photographs taken during the inspection are attached.

Please contact Patrick Lennberg (303)866-3567 ext. 8114 or email at patrick.lennberg@state.co.us if you have any questions regarding this report.

Inspection Contact Address

L. Otto Goemmer and Pete Goemmer
P.O. Box 165
La Veta, CO 81055

CC: Michael Cunningham, DRMS

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: Mine sign on gated entrance to site



Photo 2: Gated entrance to site looking north towards pit area



Photo 3: Looking north from the southern permit boundary



Photo 4: Looking north from the southern permit boundary



Photo 5: Looking east across the impounded water, area of standing water is ~0.4 acres and is about 2 feet deep



Photo 6: Conditions of the area east of the impounded water



Photo 7: Berm that was constructed to separate the old Lafarge pit from the current pit area



Photo 8: Looking southwest across impounded water

GENERAL INSPECTION TOPICS

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

(AR) RECORDS----- <u>N</u>	(FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY----- <u>Y</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>N</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>PB</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>N</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>PB</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>N</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>PB</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