


**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> Sand Arroyo	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1978-283	<b>MINERAL:</b> Sand and Gravel	<b>COUNTY:</b> Huerfano
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Patrick Lennberg	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> March 28, 2019	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 08:00
<b>OPERATOR:</b> The Walsenburg Sand and Gravel Company	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Gary Vezzani	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 112c - Construction Regular Operation	

<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Normal I&E Program	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> Complete Bond	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$19,000.00
<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

**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 mine identification sign is very faded and the mine permit number is no longer legible. This is a problem for failure to maintain 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:** 6/09/19

## **OBSERVATIONS**

The Sand Arroyo 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 September 10, 2014 as part of an acreage release request. Gary Vezzani owner of Walsenburg Sand and Gravel Company was present during the inspection. The weather was windy, and the sky was clear.

The Sand Arroyo Pit is located approximately 6 miles west of Walsenburg, Colorado. The Sand Arroyo Pit is a 112 permit for the removal of sand and gravel from an arroyo that is periodically recharged through runoff. The approved permit area is 52 acres with maximum allowed disturbance of 25 acres. 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.

All the excavation of sand material occurs within the dry arroyo. Current disturbance appears to be approximately 25 acres. The operator stated that mining has not occurred recently at the site because there has not been a runoff event large enough to replenish the suitable material. In addition he stated that in order to get suitable material he had to expose groundwater and he was not interested in exposing groundwater. Two areas that were part of a December 2013 citizen complaint appear to be stable. Several boundary markers were observed and their location was identified using a handheld GPS.

The Operator is reminded, pursuant to Rule 1.13.5, if the site does not operate more than 180 days a year then the Operator must file a Notice of Temporary Cessation by submitting a Technical Revision.

The Operator noted, during the inspection of the adjacent 111 permit (M2017-019) on the same date, that he was going to expand the Sand Arroyo Pit permit boundary to encompass the 111 permit and terminate that permit. At the same time it is his intention to reconfigure the permit boundaries so they are more linear and easier to maintain the boundary markers. The Operator is strongly encouraged to begin the amendment process soon to make these changes.

The financial warranty was recalculated as part of this inspection and there will be an increase. A copy of the Division's estimate will be provided to the Operator for review under a separate cover letter. Once the surety increase is issued by the Division, the Operator will have 60 days to provide the additional financial warranty.

Photographs taken during the inspection are attached. Please contact Patrick Lennberg (303)866-3567 ext. 8114 or email at [patrick.lennberg@state.co.us](mailto:patrick.lennberg@state.co.us) if you have any questions regarding this report.

### **Inspection Contact Address**

Gary Vezzani  
The Walsenburg Sand and Gravel Company  
P.O. Drawer 352  
Walsenburg, CO 81089

CC: Michael Cunningham, DRMS

**PHOTOGRAPHS**



**Photo 1:** Mine sign on access road



**Photo 2:** Typical mining highwall





**Photo 3:** Typical boundary marker



**Photo 4:** Another mining highwall along the northwestern portion of the site



**Photo 5:** Stockpile of material at the site.



**Photo 6:** Stockpile of material at the site





**Photo 7:** Screening plant at the site



**Photo 8:** Screening plant at the site, looking west

### 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>Y</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>N</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>PB</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>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