

**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:		MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:	MINERAL:	COUNTY:		
WSG-Sand Arroyo Pit #2		M-2017-019	Sand and gravel	Huerfano		
INSPECTION TYPE:		INSPECTOR(S):	INSP. DATE:	INSP. TIME:		
Monitoring		Patrick Lennberg	March 28, 2019	08:00		
OPERATOR:		<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b>	TYPE OF OPERATION:			
The Walsenburg Sand and Gravel Company		Gary Vezzani	111 - Construction by Goverment Agency			
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b>		BOND CALCULATION TYPE:	BOND AMOUNT:			
Normal I&E Program		Partial Bond	\$30,000.00			
DATE OF COMPLAINT:		POST INSP. CONTACTS:	JOINT INSP. AGENCY:			
NA		None	None			
WEATHER:	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:		SIGNATURE DATE:			
Clear	11.1.20		April 10, 2019			
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### **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>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>N</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS <u>Y</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN <u>N</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP <u>Y</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

## **OBSERVATIONS**

The Sand Arroyo Pit #2 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 has not been inspected before because it is a 111 Permit. 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 #2 is located approximately 6 miles west of Walsenburg, Colorado. The Sand Arroyo Pit #2 is a 111 permit that was permitted to support road construction on US Hwy 160. The approved permit area is 12 acres. The permit boundary shares a border with the Sand Arroyo Pit, permit M1978-283. The approved post-mining land use is rangeland. A mine sign was observed as required by Rule 3.1.12.

The site has not been active for at least a year. During the initial mining phase it was determined that the material being generated did not meet the required specifications. Several attempts were made to get the material to pass but none were successful. Currently at the site there is approximately 40,000 cy of material, that was processed before mining ceased, that has been blended into the surrounding topography with two smaller stockpiles of processed material remaining for a total 3 acres of disturbance. There were a couple of small stockpiles of topsoil that were noted around the area. The area did not appear to be ponding stormwater and there were few signs of erosion. Some vegetation was growing but it was difficult to determine what was growing. The highwall that remains is between 30 to 50 feet long and approximately 8 feet high. Several boundary markers were found during the inspection but not all the markers were located but all current mining is well within the permit boundaries.

Since the Operator no longer has a valid contract, that was used to obtain the original permit, they will have to enter into final reclamation. It is assumed by the Division that the five reclamation period begins on the date of this inspection. During the inspection Gary mentioned that it was his intent to incorporate this permitted area into the larger Sand Arroyo Pit permit area and seek release of the 111 permit. If the Operator wants to pursue adding this area to the larger 112 area they will have to submit an amendment with the appropriate fee. The Operator is strongly encouraged to begin the amendment process soon. The Division currently holds a bond in the amount of \$30,000.00 for the site. The Divisions has determined that the bond is adequate to complete reclamation of the site at this time.

Photographs taken during the inspection are attached.

Please contact Patrick Lennberg (303)866-3567 ext. 8114 or email at <u>patrick.lennberg@state.co.us</u> 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 at entrance off US Hwy 60



Photo 2: Typical boundary marker



Photo 3: Haul road leading to pit, topsoil pile center right of picture.



Photo 4: Mine pit area with a small processed stockpile.



Photo 5: Typical highwall within the mined area.



Photo 6: Some material that was processed and then blended into surrounding topography.