




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: Ridley Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-2005-039	MINERAL: Sand and gravel	COUNTY: Bent
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	INSPECTOR(S): Amy Eschberger	INSP. DATE: March 7, 2019	INSP. TIME: 12:45
OPERATOR: Bent County	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Robert Darnell	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: April 12, 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>NA</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 Ridley Pit (Permit No. M-2005-039) 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 14 miles southeast of Las Animas, CO in Bent County. Access to the site is off of Co Rd 16. **Photos 1-12** taken during the inspection are included with this report.

This is a 112c operation permitted for 93.18 acres to mine sand and gravel for use in construction and maintenance of county roads (see enclosed Google Earth image of site). The permit area is bisected by Co Rd 16, with the larger portion located east of the road. The approved mining plan involves temporarily relocating a portion of the road to the east so the operation can mine through the gravel deposit beneath the existing road. Afterward, the road will be put back to its original position, crossing the floor of the mined pit. The permit area encompasses some previous (pre-law) mine disturbances (mostly on the east side of Co Rd 16) which will only require reclamation if disturbed by the current operation. Mining began east of Co Rd 16 then moved into the area west of this road. Mined material is directly hauled off site for use or temporarily stored in the pit area until needed. Up to two feet of topsoil will be salvaged and stored on site for reclamation.

The approved post-mining land use for the site is rangeland. Reclamation of the site will include grading all disturbed slopes to 3H:1V or flatter, replacing topsoil on disturbed land, and seeding the land with a native grass seed mixture recommended by the Soil Conservation Service. The pit bottoms may be left as livestock feeding/loafing areas, and thus not retopsoiled and revegetated. As mentioned above, the temporarily relocated portion of Co Rd 16 will be restored to its original position.

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 of Co Rd 16. The corners of the permit boundary were marked with T-posts and half-buried tires. However, a corner marker could not be located at the far southwestern corner. While the southern boundary in this area is delineated by a barbed wire fence, the operator should place a marker at the southwestern corner to better delineate the western boundary. This is especially important given the edge of the active pit is very close to the western boundary.

The active pit located west of Co Rd 16 is approximately 10 feet deep at its south/southeast edge, and shallower at its north edge due to the site topography. The highwall is approximately 700 feet in linear length with slopes ranging from near vertical to 2H:1V. Several material stockpiles are stored on the pit floor. Salvaged topsoil is stored at the edges of the pit. Mr. Darnell indicated the operation plans to expand the pit to the south, and will then expand the pit to the east (through the existing Co Rd 16). The Division estimates the active pit disturbance to cover 8.8 acres.

The disturbed areas to the east of Co Rd 16 (approximately 13.5 acres) are in reclamation, and the operation has no plans to continue mining on this side of the road. However, the areas directly adjacent to Co Rd 16 will be re-disturbed when the operation mines under the road. All slopes in this area have been graded to 3H:1V or flatter, and the land retopsoiled and seeded. Vegetative cover of these areas consists of native grasses, forbs, and some shrubs. The pre-law disturbances at the southeastern edge of the permit area were never disturbed by this operation, and have mostly self-reclaimed.

The operation appears to be following the approved mining and reclamation plans. No problems were observed.

This concludes the report.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1. View looking east from Co Rd 16, showing southern corner of permit boundary marked by T-post and half-buried tire.



Photo 2. View looking west from Co Rd 16, showing barbed wire fence marking southern permit boundary west of the road.



Photo 3. View looking south across western edge of active pit. Material shown in foreground will be used to backfill this slope for reclamation.



Photo 4. View looking east across active pit from its western edge. Note several material stockpiles stored on pit floor.



Photo 5. View looking southwest across active pit from its northern edge.



Photo 6. View looking east across active pit from its northern edge. Note material stockpiles stored on pit floor.



Photo 7. View looking south across eastern pit wall, which is approximately 5 feet in height in this portion of the pit.



Photo 8. View looking southwest across western edge of reclaimed pit located just east of Co Rd 16. Portions of this area adjacent to the road will be re-disturbed when the operation mines under the road.



Photo 9. View looking east across reclaimed pit located east of Co Rd 16.



Photo 10. View looking north across dirt road constructed across reclaimed area located east of Co Rd 16. This is where a segment of Co Rd 16 will be relocated when the operation mines under the existing road.



Photo 11. View looking east across northern portion of reclaimed pit disturbance located east of Co Rd 16.



Photo 12. View looking southeast across northern portion of reclaimed pit disturbance located east of Co Rd 16.

Inspection Contact Address

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Encl: Google Earth image of site

CC: Michael Cunningham, DRMS

M-2005-039 / Ridley Pit / Bent County

Red Outline = 93.18 acres = Approved Permit Area (approximate location based on approved mining plan map)
(Image data from 3/19/2016)

