




MINERALS PROGRAM INSPECTION REPORT
PHONE: (303) 866-3567

The Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety 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: Benson Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1977-256	MINERAL: Sand and gravel	COUNTY: Grand
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	INSPECTOR(S): Peter S. Hays	INSP. DATE: July 9, 2019	INSP. TIME: 10:00
OPERATOR: Grand County	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Chris Baer, Micah Benson	TYPE OF OPERATION: 112c - Construction Regular Operation	
REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: None	BOND AMOUNT: No Bond Held	
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None	
WEATHER: Clear	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: July 15, 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>NA</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>N</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 / N = Not inspected / NA = Not applicable to this operation / PB = Problem cited / PV = Possible violation cited

OBSERVATIONS

The Benson Pit was inspected by Peter Hays with the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division/DRMS) as part of the Division's monitoring inspection program and for technical revision no. 1. The site was previously inspected by the Division on June 15, 2016. Mr. Chris Baer and Ms. Micah Benson with Grand County Department of Road and Bridge were present during the inspection. An inspection map based on the observations from this inspection is attached for reference.

The Benson Pit is located 2 miles northwest of Frasier, Colorado in Grand County. The site is 112c operation permitted for 104.28 acres. The mining activity will not reach bedrock or expose groundwater. The site will be mined 25 to 35 feet deep with a 25' offset from all property boundaries. The site was inactive during the inspection. The Operator reported the site was most recently active during last summer. Material stockpiles and a processing plant were observed on the pit floor. Several stockpiles of imported materials were observed along the western boundary of the pit floor. The highwall progressed towards the east during the last mining excavation. The highwalls were temporarily sloped at 2H:1V and appeared stable. The highwall was estimated to be 35 feet in height. Topsoil was stripped ahead of mining activity and stockpiled above the highwall crest. The power lines bisecting the permit area will not be removed and mined out according to the Operator. The possible joining of the pit floor of the Benson Pit with the adjoining Morrow Pit along the north side is not planned at this time according to the Operator.

The approved post-mining land use for the site is rangeland. The reclamation plan is to reshape, topsoil and revegetate the site with grasses once mining is complete. The perimeter slopes will be regrade to 2H:1V slopes and the slopes adjacent to the power lines will be graded to 3H:1V slopes. Reclamation will be concurrent with the mining operation. No more than 25 acres will be disturbed at one time. The slopes of the powerline peninsulas were estimated at 3H:1V. Revegetation efforts are ongoing on the west part of the south highwall and the north and south powerline peninsula slopes. The vegetation in the southern portion of the south peninsula was well-established. The vegetation in the northern portion of the north peninsula was adequately vegetate for stability, however bare areas and annual and noxious weeds were observed in the area. The Operator stated the weeds would be sprayed and the area would be monitored for the establishment of reclamation grasses.

The large imported topsoil stockpile located in the north end of the site appeared stable, however it was not vegetated to prevent erosion. The Division recommends the Operator establish vegetation on the imported topsoil stockpile. Imported material from the Grand County Water and Sanitation District mining operation was stockpiled on the north end of the site adjacent to the topsoil stockpile. The stockpile will be processed by the Operator to determine the usability of the material soon. No disturbance in the amendment area located to the east of the original permit area was observed during the inspection.

A technical revision (TR-01) to the permit was submitted by the Operator on March 29, 2019. The revision allows the construction of a solar facility on 11.54 acres on the undisturbed southwestern portion of the permit boundary. The technical revision was approved by the Division on April 5, 2019. Construction of the facility had not started as of this inspection. Survey stakes indicating the boundaries of the solar facility and utility locate markings were observed during the inspection.

The required mine sign was posted at the entrance and the permit boundaries were well defined as required by Rule 3.1.12. Photographs taken during the inspection are attached. No problem were cited during the inspection. No financial warranty is held for the site.

If you need additional information or have any questions, please contact me at Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203, by telephone at 303.866.3567 x 8124, or by email at peter.hays@state.co.us.

Inspection Contact Address

Micah Benson
Grand County
P.O. Box 9
Granby, CO 80446

Enclosure - Inspection Map

Ec: Michael Cunningham, DRMS

PHOTOGRAPHS



Benson Pit mine sign



View of the pit floor from the northeast corner of the highwall looking southwest



View of the eastern highwall and regraded southern highwall from the northwest corner of the highwall looking south



View of topsoil stockpiles stripped ahead of the highwall looking south



View of the solar facility lease area from the south side looking north



View of the well-vegetated southern portion of the south powerline peninsula looking south



View of the well-vegetated southern portion of the south powerline peninsula looking east








View of the vegetated northern portion of the north powerline peninsula looking north

Benson Pit

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July 9, 2019 Inspection Map

Legend

-  Benson New Access Road
-  Benson Permit Boundary
-  Erosion Feature
-  Graded 3H:1V Slopes
-  Grand County Benson Pit
-  Imported Material
-  Solar Facility Lease Area
-  Topsoil Stockpiles
-  Vegetated 3H:1V Slopes
-  Well-Vegetated 3H:1V Slopes

Grand County Benson Pit



Google Earth

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1000 ft