



**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> Houchin Gravel Pit	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1980-249	<b>MINERAL:</b> Sand and gravel	<b>COUNTY:</b> El Paso
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Timothy A. Cazier	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> April 1, 2019	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 11:50
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Charles W Houchin	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Curt Houchin	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 110c - Construction Limited Impact	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Citizen Complaint	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> Complete Bond	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$3,500.00	
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> None	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None	
<b>WEATHER:</b> Windy	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> August 1, 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>Y</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>N</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>Y</u>	(BG) BACKFILL & GRADING----- <u>Y</u>	(EX) EXPLOSIVES----- <u>NA</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- <u>Y</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>Y</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>N</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>Y</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>Y</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>Y</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>N</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>NA</u>	(OD) OFF-SITE DAMAGE----- <u>Y</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 inspection was conducted as the result of a complaint submitted to the DRMS on March 23, 2019. The complaint cited issues with dust, mine and reclamation plan compliance, and erosion / sedimentation. The Operator (Charles W Houchin) was represented during the inspection by Mr. Curt Houchin. The Houchin Gravel Pit is accessed from Hwy 24 approximately 8.5 miles southeast of Woodland Park. This is a 110c sand & gravel mine.

Mr. Houchin explained he had imported approximately 12,000 CY from the Colorado Drainage Project construction taking place a little more than a half mile to the northwest of the Houchin Gravel pit on Chipita Park Rd, which intersects Hwy 24 a little more than a quarter mile northwest of the pit. Mr. Houchin stated he had been away the week prior to this inspection and planned to start processing the material at his pit the week of the inspection. He expected to acquire approximately another 500 CY from the drainage project. He estimated all the imported material would be gone within a year. **Photo 1** shows the imported material pile.

This inspector advised Mr. Houchin to implement dust control best practices, given the height of the stockpile (estimated between 30 and 40 feet). A short visit to the drainage project indicated the amount of material removed from the drainage project was consistent with the amount of material stockpiled at the Houchin Gravel Pit.

DRMS rules do not prohibit importing material to be processed and sold as product. No evidence of sediment leaving the site was observed. The inspection occurred on a relatively calm day and no blowing dust from the stockpile was observed at the time of the inspection.

Signs and Markers: The permit sign was properly posted (see **Photo 2**).

No further action was deemed necessary by the DRMS.

## PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1. Imported material stockpile (looking east).



Photo 2. Permit sign (near entrance).

**Inspection Contact Address**

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Charles W Houchin  
P.O. Box 85  
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copy: DRMS file  
Kayle Higinbotham, via US Mail