




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: City of Las Animas Sand Excavation Area	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-2012-008	MINERAL: Sand	COUNTY: Bent
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	INSPECTOR(S): Amy Eschberger	INSP. DATE: September 11, 2019	INSP. TIME: 11:00
OPERATOR: City of Las Animas	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Ken Wagner	TYPE OF OPERATION: 111 - Construction by Government Agency	
REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: None	BOND AMOUNT: NA	
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None	
WEATHER: Clear	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: October 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>NA</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>Y</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>Y</u>	(BG) BACKFILL & GRADING----- <u>N</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>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 City of Las Animas Sand Excavation Area (Permit No. M-2012-008) conducted by Amy Eschberger of the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division). The operator was represented by Ken Wagner during the inspection. The site is located approximately 4.5 miles southwest of Las Animas, CO in Bent County. The site is situated in a sand sage area, less than one mile northwest of the Purgatoire River. Access to the site is at a bend in County Road CC where it turns into Road 11/County Road 9.5 going north. The affected lands are owned by Kenneth K. and Jean Marie Wagner. **Photos 1-8** taken during the inspection are included with this report.

This is a 111c operation permitted for 11.47 acres (see enclosed Google Earth image) to mine blow sand to depths of 4-8 feet for use in pipe bedding materials. Mining is conducted primarily in a southwest to northeast fashion. The operator committed to mining no more than two acres at a time. Salvaged topsoil will be stored at the southwestern corner of the affected lands. The operator committed to maintaining a 250 foot mining setback from the county road to the west per the recommendation of Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), to minimize sand blowing onto the road. CPW manages the Purgatoire River State Wildlife Area located north and east of the site. The operation accesses the site from an existing ranch road off County Road CC which is not included in the permit area. Existing mining disturbance was present directly adjacent to the southern permit boundary, and will not be re-disturbed by the operation other than use of the existing access road.

The approved post-mining land use for the site is pastureland. The reclamation plan includes grading all disturbed land to the approximate level of adjacent fields, replacing topsoil on the land, and revegetating the land with a dryland pasture seed mix recommended by the local Soil Conservation Service, including Blue grama, Indian ricegrass, Sideoats grama, Sand dropseed, and Western wheatgrass. Weeds will be sprayed as needed with the appropriate herbicide. The pit access road will not be reclaimed.

At the time of the inspection, the weather was warm, sunny, and dry. A permit sign was posted near the main site entrance. The approved permit boundary was delineated with metal posts. The site was not active during the inspection. However, according to the operator, the site is active every year in accordance with its intermittent status, approved in 2013 under Technical Revision No. 1. The Division estimates current disturbance at the site to consist of approximately two acres. This disturbance includes an open sand pit with mined walls along its northern and western edges, a material stockpile stored on the pit floor, and a topsoil stockpile stored at the southwestern corner of the pit. The pit wall is approximately 6-8 feet in height with slope gradients of near vertical to 1H:1V. Since the Division's last inspection of the site in 2014, the operation has stripped areas north and northeast of the pit in preparation of mining. The western edge of the pit is approximately 250-285 feet from the county road to the west, which is in compliance with the 250 foot setback. The topsoil stockpile was stable with vegetative cover. Vegetation consisting primarily of annual weeds (e.g. wild sunflowers, kochia) but also some sand sagebrush has volunteered across the disturbed land.

No problems were observed. However, given the operator's commitment to limit pit disturbance to no more than two acres at a time, prior to disturbing additional land, the operator should either complete reclamation of existing disturbance, or submit a Technical Revision to increase the maximum disturbance at any time to more than two acres.

This concludes the report.

Any questions or comments regarding this inspection report should be forwarded to Amy Eschberger at the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203, via telephone at 303-866-3567, ext. 8129, or via email at amy.eschberger@state.co.us.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1. View looking northwest across pit from its southern edge. Note western pit wall (background, left) and vegetative cover of disturbed area consisting primarily of weeds (e.g., wild sunflowers, kochia).



Photo 2. View looking north across pit from its southern edge. Note material stockpile stored on pit floor (top, center) and vegetative cover of disturbed area consisting primarily of weeds (e.g., wild sunflowers, kochia).



Photo 3. View looking north across area recently stripped northeast of pit in preparation for mining. Note annual weeds (e.g., wild sunflowers, kochia) and sand sagebrush volunteering into this area.



Photo 4. View looking west across pit from its eastern edge. Note material stockpile stored on pit floor (top, center) and vegetative cover of disturbed area consisting primarily of weeds (e.g., wild sunflowers, kochia).



Photo 5. View looking east from eastern edge of pit disturbance, showing undisturbed portion of permit area.



Photo 6. View looking west at western pit wall, which is approximately 6-8 feet in height with near vertical to 1H:1V slopes.



Photo 7. View looking north at northern pit wall, which is approximately 4-6 feet in height with near vertical to 1H:1V slopes.



Photo 8. View looking north, showing topsoil stockpile (indicated) stored at southwestern corner of pit disturbance. Note this stockpile is stable with vegetative cover.

Inspection Contact Address

Ken Wagner
City of Las Animas
532 Carson Avenue
Las Animas, CO 81054

Encl: Google Earth image of site

CC: Michael Cunningham, DRMS

M-2012-008 / City of Las Animas Sand Excavation Area / City of Las Animas (111c)

Red Outline = 11.47 acres = Approved Permit Area
Blue Outline = 2.0 acres = Approximate Disturbed Area
(Image data from 3/19/2016)

