




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: Iron Mountain Road Gravel Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1994-092	MINERAL: Gravel	COUNTY: Fremont
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	INSPECTOR(S): Timothy Cazier	INSP. DATE: July 24, 2019	INSP. TIME: 09:00
OPERATOR: Rocky Mountain Excavating, LLC	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Bennie & Shawnie Koch	TYPE OF OPERATION: 110c - Construction Limited Impact	

REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: Partial Bond	BOND AMOUNT: \$18,220.00
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: U.S.BLM	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: U.S.BLM
WEATHER: Clear	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: October 29, 2019

The following inspection topics were identified as having Problems or Possible Violations. OPERATORS SHOULD READ THE FOLLOWING PAGES CAREFULLY IN ORDER TO ASSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE PERMIT AND APPLICABLE RULES AND REGULATIONS. If a Possible Violation is indicated, you will be notified under separate cover as to when the Mined Land Reclamation Board will consider possible enforcement action.

INSPECTION TOPIC: Hydrologic Balance

PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION: Problem: The site is improperly impounding surface drainage/runoff.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: Submit documentation from the State Engineer's Office demonstrating that the impoundment of water in this pit is authorized by that office. Operator could also remove impediments to proper surface drainage.

CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE: 12/30/19

OBSERVATIONS

This inspection was conducted by Tim Cazier (DRMS) as part of the regular monitoring program. The Permittee (Rocky Mountain Excavating, LLC) was represented by Bennie and Shawnie Koch who were present for the inspection. Also present representing the BLM was Amber Sanderson. The Iron Mountain Road Gravel Pit site entrance is located approximately 1.5 miles east of the intersection of Fremont County Roads 1 and 28 (Copper Gulch Rd), about 30 miles southwest of Cañon City. This is a 110c gravel mine. It was not operating at the time of the inspection.

Availability of Records: Annual fees are paid through January 2019. The previous inspection was on July 22, 2015. The approved post-mine land use is wildlife habitat. There are no open infractions. Both the surface and minerals are federally owned and managed by the BLM.

Backfilling and Grading: The south highwall is to be benched and backfilled at 2H:1V. See "Permit Stipulations" section below.

Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste: Mr. Koch explained he processes all overburden. The observed piles (see **Photo 1**) will be converted to product.

Explosives: Mr. Koch indicated he occasionally needs to blast. The BLM has a copy of the blasting plan.

Financial Warranty: The \$18,220 bond held by the DRMS was updated in 2016 and is adequate for the observed mine disturbance.

Fish and Wildlife: No impact to wildlife was observed.

Hydrologic Balance: Standing water was observed in the pit, but determined not to be exposed groundwater. Discussions with Mr. Koch determined the ponded water was from captured stormwater runoff. Mr. Koch explained the pit floor is competent rock and very tight, not allowing infiltration of captured runoff. This assertion is supported by the white residue from evaporation observed along the edge of the ponded water (see **Photos 2 and 3**) and the observation that this small portion of the pit floor is below the elevation of the adjacent stormwater pond. Pursuant to Colorado Division of Water Resources regulations, this stormwater runoff must be pumped out and allowed to infiltrate or returned to the local drainage. **The presence of the trapped stormwater runoff is cited as a problem on Page 1 of this report.**

Gen. Compliance with Mine Plan: Google Earth was used to measure the disturbed area, which was estimated to be approximately 7.9 acres (including the access road), based on 2016 imagery. Highwalls on the west side (see **Photo 4**) were estimated to vary between 12 and 15 feet in height at approximately a 1H:1V overall slope and appeared stable.

Off-site Damage: The operation appeared to be confined to the permit boundary, based on Google Earth review and site observations.

Processing Waste: No processing waste was observed.

Roads: Haul and access roads did not appear to be a source of sediment that could be tracked offsite. Road side ditches did not appear to require maintenance.

Reclamation Success: No reclamation has been initiated.

Revegetation: Some Common Mullein was observed and a few plants of what appeared to be knapweed (see **Photo 3**). The mullein is a noxious weed List C species, so it was not cited as a problem, but the DRMS advises implementing a weed control plan. The knapweed is a list B noxious weed species but was not yet prevalent to

be cited as a problem. However, the Operator should implement the knapweed weed control program included in the original permit application to control the knapweed before it becomes problematic.

Sediment Control: No erosion problems were observed and no BMPs were needed at the time of the inspection.

Support Facilities On-site: A screen plant, crusher, and loader were observed on site (see **Photo 1**).

Signs and Markers: The permit sign was properly posted (see **Photo 5**) and the boundary is marked with three strand fencing (see **Photo 6**).

Permit Stipulations: Commitment No. 1 provides for an exception to the 3H:1V reclamation slope as follows: *"The final pit walls will be re-contoured to a slope of 3:1 (H:V) or lower, with the possible exception of the south wall where resistant bedrock may force a highwall. This south wall will be benched or backfilled with material so that a slope at least as low as 2:1 (H:V) can be achieved".*

Storm Water MGT Plan: No oil or fuel spills observed. The site has a sediment pond in the NW corner (see **Photo 7**), but it is cutoff from most of the site runoff by berms between it and the pit floor (see **Photo 6**) and the problem cited above under Hydrologic Balance with the pit floor being lower than the sediment pond.

Topsoil: Topsoil stockpiles were observed along the perimeter of the pit.

Structures: The only structure observed within 200 feet of the affected area was the boundary fence owned by the Permittee.

Please contact Tim Cazier (303)866-3567 ext. 8169 or email at tim.cazier@state.co.us if you have any questions regarding this report.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1. Overburden piles to be processed & equipment (looking NW across active pit area).

PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)



Photo 2. East end of trapped pit stormwater.

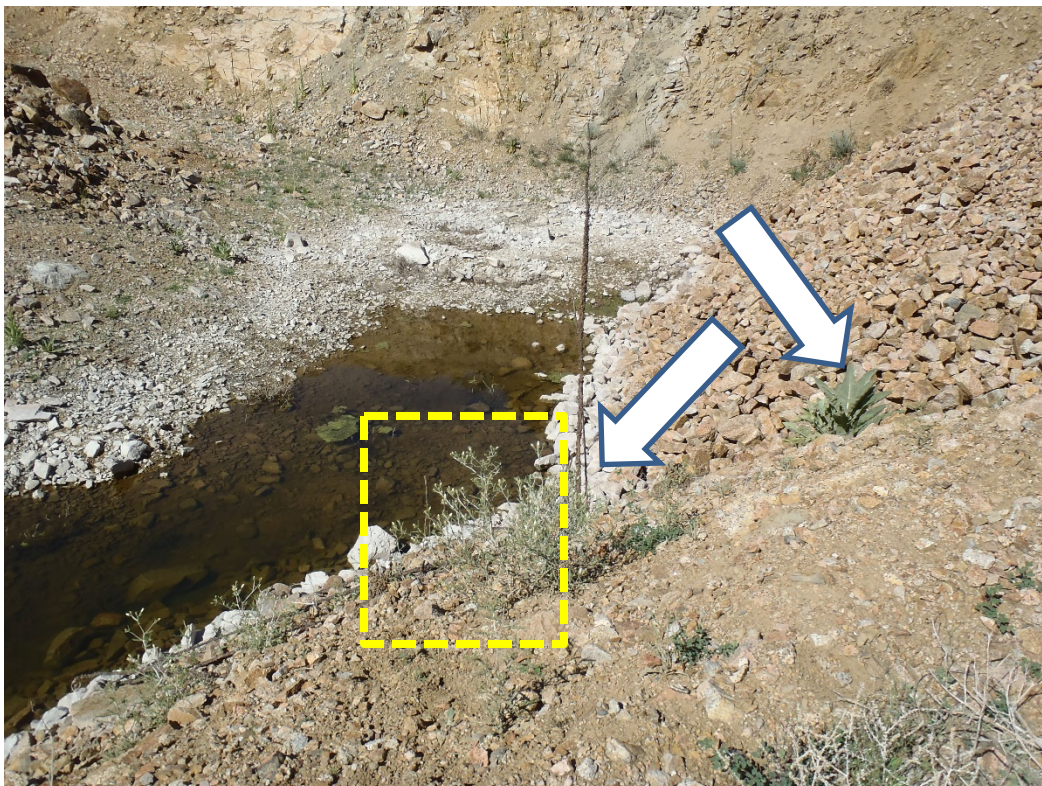


Photo 3. Knapweed [box], mullein [arrows] (near west end of trapped pit water).

PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)



Photo 4. West side highwall & west end of trapped pit stormwater (looking SW).

PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)



Photo 5. Permit sign at entrance.



Photo 6. West boundary fence, berms and topsoil stockpile (looking south).
PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)



Photo 7. Sediment pond, west boundary fence and berms (looking north).

GENERAL INSPECTION TOPICS

The following list identifies the environmental and permit parameters inspected and gives a categorical evaluation of each

(AR) RECORDS----- <u>Y</u>	(FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY----- <u>Y</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>Y</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>PB</u>	(BG) BACKFILL & GRADING----- <u>Y</u>	(EX) EXPLOSIVES----- <u>Y</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- <u>Y</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>Y</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>Y</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>Y</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>Y</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>Y</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>Y</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>NA</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>Y</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>NA</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>Y</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>Y</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

Inspection Contact Address

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ec: DRMS File
Stephanie Carter, BLM
Amber Sanderson, BLM