



## 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> Clear Spring Ranch Pit	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1992-074	<b>MINERAL:</b> Gravel	<b>COUNTY:</b> El Paso
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Timothy Cazier	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> October 15, 2019	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 13:45
<b>OPERATOR:</b> City of Colorado Springs	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Ann Burdett & Patti Zietlow	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 112c - Construction Regular Operation	

<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Normal I&E Program	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> None	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$0.00
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> None	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None
<b>WEATHER:</b> Clear	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> November 4, 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:** Topsoil

**PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION:** Problem: During the inspection, it was discovered that there is inadequate topsoil to complete the approved reclamation at the site. This is a problem related to C.R.S. 34-32.5-116(4)(i) for failure to follow the reclamation plan prescribed in the permit.

**CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:** The operator submitted a plan on November 1, 2019 to replenish the topsoil stockpile from the surrounding City-owned property. Transportation of the required topsoil is to begin approximately November 4, 2019 and be complete by mid-2020.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE:** 6/30/20

## **OBSERVATIONS**

This inspection was conducted as part of the Division's regular monitoring program. The Permittee (City of Colorado Springs) was represented during the inspection by Ann Burdett, Patti Zietlow and several others. The Clear Spring Ranch Pit is on the west side of I-25 accessed from exit 125. This is a 112c gravel mine. It was not operating at the time of the inspection. However, signs of recent activity were noted.

Availability of Records: Annual fees are paid through March 2019. The previous inspection was on May 26, 2016. The approved post-mine land use is rangeland. There were no open infractions prior to the inspection. Both the surface and minerals are owned by Colorado Springs. In 2017 Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) clarified the construction waste landfill in the northwest corner of the permit area has a certificate of designation required by both El Paso County and the Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment, in a letter dated June 20, 2017.

Backfilling and Grading: Sufficient backfill material appeared to be available.

Financial Warranty: As the site is permitted by the City of Colorado Springs, no bond is required.

Fish and Wildlife: No impact to wildlife was observed.

Hydrologic Balance: No standing water was observed in the pit and no exposed groundwater was observed.

Gen. Compliance with Mine Plan: The maximum allowed disturbed area is 47.4 acres. Google Earth was used to measure the disturbed area, which was estimated to be approximately 34.5 acres, based on 2017 imagery. Highwalls were estimated to 25 feet in height and appeared stable at 2H:1V or flatter (see **Photo 1**).

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

Processing Waste: A stockpile of oversized rock was observed on the pit floor (see **Photo 2**).

Roads: Haul and access roads are dust controlled and did not appear to be a source of sediment that could be tracked offsite. Road side ditches were clean. Vehicle tracking BMP adequate.

Reclamation Success: A majority of the pit walls had been sloped to 3H:1V or flatter.

Revegetation: No noxious weeds were observed. Site representatives stated they have an internal weed control plan which is implemented at the site.

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 and loader were observed on site (see **Photo 3**).

Signs and Markers: The permit sign was properly posted (see **Photo 4**) and boundary markers were observed to delineate the permit boundary (see **Photo 5**).

Permit Stipulations: There are no open permit stipulations.

Storm Water MGT Plan: No oil or fuel spills observed. Representatives stated the stormwater management plan is kept in their office. Stormwater either drains to the pit and infiltrates or is directed to the sediment ponds.

Topsoil: The large topsoil stockpile observed during the 2016 inspection (see **Photo 6**) had been removed and according to site representatives used elsewhere on the CSU property. The topsoil stockpile observed during this inspection was far too small to complete reclamation (see **Photo 7**). **The removal of the topsoil stockpile for purposes other than mine reclamation is cited as a problem on page 1 of this report.** CSU provided a plan to replace the topsoil stockpile by mid-2020 via email on November 1, 2019.

Structures: All structures within 200 feet of the affected area are owned by Colorado Springs Utilities.

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

### **PHOTOGRAPHS**



Photo 1. Typical highwalls sloped to flatter than 2H:1V (looking west).



**PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)**



Photo 2. Stockpile of oversized rock.



Photo 3. Screen plant (looking SW).



**PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)**



Photo 4. Permit sign (at mine entrance).



Photo 5. Typical permit boundary sign (west side).



**PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)**



Photo 6. Topsoil stockpile with sign (SW corner) observed in 2016.



Photo 7. Topsoil stockpile with sign (SW corner) current inspection.

### 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>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>Y</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>Y</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <b>PB</b>
(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>N</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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