




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: Pierce Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1980-121	MINERAL: Sand and gravel	COUNTY: Weld
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	INSPECTOR(S): Peter Hays	INSP. DATE: January 23, 2020	INSP. TIME: 12:00
OPERATOR: Weld County Public Works	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Clay Kimmi	TYPE OF OPERATION: 112c - Construction Regular Operation	
REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: None	BOND AMOUNT: \$0.00	
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None	
WEATHER: Clear	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: January 31, 2020	

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>N</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>N</u>	(BG) BACKFILL & GRADING----- <u>Y</u>	(EX) EXPLOSIVES----- <u>N</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>N</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>Y</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 Pierce 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. The site was previously inspected by the Division on February 12, 2016. Mr. Clay Kimmi, Mr. Jeff York, Mr. Kevin Hettinger and Ms. Tina Booton with Weld County Public Works were present during the inspection.

The site is an 112c operation permitted for 56.50 acres. The site has been in final reclamation site 2012. The site appeared unchanged since the last inspection. As noted during the previous inspections, cottonwood trees have volunteered in the north end of the site. The site vegetation in the north end of the site and on the west slope appeared well-established with only a few annual and noxious weeds. The vegetation on the east and south slopes are not well-established consisting of sparse vegetation and weeds. The stockpile area in the southeast portion of the site has not been reclaimed and consisted of a gravel floor with sparse to no vegetation. The stockpile area will require topsoil and seeding as part of final reclamation. The required mine identification sign was posted and the site boundaries were well defined as required by Rule 3.1.12.

The approved post-mining land use for the site is wildlife habitat. The approved Reclamation Plan states the final slopes will be graded to less than 2H:1V. The pit slopes were estimated to be 3H:1V or less. The pit is located in the Lone Tree Creek ephemeral stream channel. The mining activity has captured the creek and is preventing the historic creek flow from continuing out of the site. The pit floor was partially covered with water at the time of the inspection. The Reclamation Plan for the site was amended in 1985 from a dry to wet pit floor for final reclamation. The amendment allowed for pumping and dewatering of the pit following spring runoff flooding events. The Operator was to obtain a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the dewatering activity. The Division does not have evidence the NPDES permit was obtained by the Operator or is still valid. The comment letter from the Office of the State Engineer during the amendment process dated January 22, 1985 states, "If Lone Tree Creek is diverted in such a manner that the water in the lake is surface water, than a plan for augmentation would still be needed to repay senior water rights for the increased consumption due to evaporation from the increased water surface area."

The adequacy response letter from Weld County dated February 21, 1985 states, Weld County is planning to install a properly designed pipe to enable the receiving water (from Lone Tree Creek) to find its natural channel. The statement contradicts the stated purpose of the 1985 permit amendment to allow a wet pit floor. The dewatering pipe or the pumping system have not been installed by the Operator. The Operator has been in contact with the Division of Water Resources regarding the issue and is working with DWR to resolve this matter. The problem cited during the 2016 inspection is considered terminated by the Division, however the water issue will need to be resolved prior to final permit release by the Division.

The Operator stated another mining company is interested in purchasing and potentially re-mining the property. The Operator was informed of the requirement to transfer the Reclamation Permit through the succession of operator process. The Succession of Operator form is available on the Division's website at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PRtzKLhcRrTc44uSJ8a1ECtUxTL99JfN/view>

Photographs taken during the inspection are attached below.

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

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P.O. Box 758
Greeley, CO 80632

Ec: Jared Ebert, DRMS

PHOTOGRAPHS



Pierce Pit mine sign



View of the site from the southeast corner of the site looking west



View of the site from the southeast corner of the site looking northwest



View of the site from the southeast corner of the site looking north



View of the site from the south side of the site looking north



View of the site from the northwest corner of the site looking north



View of the site from the northwest corner of the site looking southeast



View of the site from the northwest corner of the site looking south