



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.

MINE NAME: Mitchell Mine No 1	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1986-025	MINERAL: Sand and gravel	COUNTY: El Paso
INSPECTION TYPE: Surety Release Inspection	INSPECTOR(S): Timothy Cazier	INSP. DATE: May 29, 2020	INSP. TIME: 14:45
OPERATOR: R E Monks Construction Co.	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Greigg Newlon	TYPE OF OPERATION: 110c - Construction Limited Impact	

REASON FOR INSPECTION: Surety Release Requested	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: Partial Bond	BOND AMOUNT: \$11,500.00
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None
WEATHER: Cloudy	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: June 17, 2020

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: Sediment Control

PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION: Problem: Erosion gullies and ruts were observed on-site. This is a problem at this time for failure to protect the affected land from erosion pursuant to C.R.S. 34-32.5-116 (4) (j).

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: The operator shall provide photo documentation to the Division verifying erosion gullies and ruts have been repaired, and that the site has have been reconstructed and stabilized to prevent erosion damage by the corrective action date.

CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE: 8/17/20

OBSERVATIONS

This inspection was conducted by Tim Cazier (DRMS) as part of a surety release request. The Permittee (R E Monks Construction Co.) was represented by Mr. Greigg Newlon during the inspection. The Mitchell Mine No. 1 Pit is accessed from Harrisville Rd off US Hwy 24 approximately 1.5 miles northeast of Calhan. The mine entrance is located approximately 1.75 miles off Hwy 24 on the north side of Harrisville Rd. This is a 110c sand and gravel mine. It was not operating at the time of the inspection.

Availability of Records: Annual fees are paid through July 2019. The previous inspection was on March 14, 2017. The approved post-mine land use is rangeland. There were no open infractions prior to the inspection. The site is currently in temporary cessation (TC) which was initiated in September 2017.

Backfilling and Grading: Sufficient backfill material (if needed) appeared to be available for push down from the highwall crest as they are well within the permit boundary on the north end.

Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste: No overburden piles were observed.

Financial Warranty: The \$11,500 bond held by the DRMS is adequate for the observed mine disturbance.

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 operation appeared to have been in compliance with the approved mine plan. The maximum allowed disturbed area is 9.5 acres. Google Earth was used to measure the historically disturbed area, which was estimated to be approximately two acres, based on 2017 imagery (see attached **Post Inspection Map**). The additional acre of disturbance reported in the previous inspection was determined not to be related to mining and was observed to be revegetated. Mr. Newlon confirmed mining has ceased at the site, consistent with the request for a surety release.

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: The access gate has been locked for some time and the sandy access road area did not appear to be a source of sediment that could be tracked offsite.

Right of Entry: R E Monks recently sold the site and surrounding land. They have an agreement with the current landowner to access the site for reclamation only.

Reclamation Success: Grading is adequate for most of the historically disturbed two acres. However, a significant erosion gully was observed (discussed below). The approved reclamation plan, based on the March 18, 1986 Preliminary Adequacy Review response states no slopes will be steeper than 2H:1V and any slopes steeper than 3H:1V would be terraced or other erosion control methods used to stabilize the slope. Based on the site revegetation challenges, the DRMS recommends limiting the repair and stabilization effort for this gully to as localized area as practical, in order to minimize the area requiring re-seeding.

Revegetation: With the exception of the significant erosion area on the highwall (see **Photo 1**), the majority of the disturbed area has adequate vegetation (see **Photos 2 and 3**). The site soil is well drained and poses a challenge for revegetation efforts. Mr. Newlon stated the site had been seeded at least three times over the last 15 years, one of which was with a hydroseeder. Given the challenge to establishing vegetation, the Operator and the DRMS agree the repair/stabilization work necessary for the erosion gully should be done in such a way as to minimize disturbance to the surrounding slope. No noxious weeds were observed.

Sediment Control: A significant erosion gully (estimated to be 8 to 10 feet at its deepest section) was observed (see **Photos 1 and 4**). **The gully is cited as a problem on page 1 of this report** and is the reason the DRMS cannot approve the surety release request at this time. See Reclamation Success above for recommendations.

Signs and Markers: The permit sign was properly posted (see **Photo 5**).

Permit Stipulations: There are no permit stipulations.

Storm Water MGT Plan: No oil or fuel spills observed. Stormwater drains to the pit and infiltrates.

Topsoil: Mr. Newlon indicated what topsoil there had been replaced.

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. Observed erosion gully from highwall crest (looking SW, pit floor vegetation appears adequate).

PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)



Photo 2. Pit floor and west slope vegetation (looking west).



Photo 3. East pit slope and pit floor from highwall crest (looking SW).

PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)



Photo 4. Observed erosion gully from highwall crest (looking NE – reveg on either side appears adequate).



Photo 5. Permit sign (at entrance).

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>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>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>Y</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>Y</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>Y</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- PB	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>Y</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>Y</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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Enclosure

ec: DRMS file
Greigg Newlon, R E Monks

M-1986-025 Surety Release Post-Inspection Map

Satellite Imagery from 6/13/2017

Legend

- M-86-25 Affected Area
- M-86-25 Area needing stabilization
- M-86-25 Permit Boundary
- Mitchell Mine No 1

