




**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.

|   |   |  |                             |
|---|---|--|-----------------------------|
| <b>MINE NAME:</b><br>Cottonwood Pit                 | <b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b><br>M-1988-042  | <b>MINERAL:</b><br>Sand and gravel                                 | <b>COUNTY:</b><br>Weld      |
| <b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b><br>Monitoring               | <b>INSPECTOR(S):</b><br>Peter Hays  | <b>INSP. DATE:</b><br>June 26, 2020                                | <b>INSP. TIME:</b><br>09:30 |
| <b>OPERATOR:</b><br>Martin Marietta Materials, Inc. | <b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b><br>Julie Mikulas  | <b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b><br>112c - Construction Regular Operation |                             |
| <b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b><br>Normal I&E Program | <b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b><br>Complete Bond  | <b>BOND AMOUNT:</b><br>\$421,700.00                                |                             |
| <b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b><br>NA                     | <b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b><br>None   | <b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b><br>None                                 |                             |
| <b>WEATHER:</b><br>Clear                            | <b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b><br> | <b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b><br>August 1, 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>Y</u>    | (RD) ROADS----- <u>N</u>        |
| (HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>Y</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>N</u>  |
| (SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>N</u>       | (SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>N</u>   | (RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>N</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 Cottonwood 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 August 29, 2016. Mrs. Julie Mikulas with Martin Marietta Materials, Inc. was present during the inspection.

The site is an 112c operation permitted for 393.35 acres. The site is divided into five (5) mining areas; CW1, CW2, CW3, CW4 and CW5. Additionally, the former silt ponds for the operation are located in the southwest corner of the site. Mining areas CW1 - CW4, as identified in the 2020 Annual Report, are reclaimed and in final reclamation. The northwest corner of the site (CW5) has been mined out except for a 2.5 acre area (Area #4 on the 2020 Annual Report Map), the remainder of the area is being backfilled and reclaimed by the Operator. The processing plant and conveyors have been removed from the site. The Operator stated the office and scale buildings would be move to another site soon to allow mining the area. The map provided with the 2020 Annual Report accurately depicted the status of the site.

The approved post-mining land use for the site is general agriculture. Portions of mining areas CW1, CW2, CW3 and CW4 were observed to evaluate the reclamation progress. The vegetation in the areas consisted of reclamation grasses with patches of cheat grass and kochia. The Operator must implement the approved weed management plan to control the spread of the weed species. The Operator stated the reclaimed areas would be mowed soon to control the annual and noxious weeds.

The Division currently holds a reclamation bond in the amount of \$421,721.00, which is adequate to reclaim the site based on this inspection.

Lafarge has an agreement with Water Users Association of District No. 6 regarding the exposed groundwater at the Cottonwood Pit. The agreement allows for the creation of 6 lakes with a total of 420 acre feet of exposed groundwater. The Operator is considering installing slurry walls around the current lakes to eliminate the groundwater exposure at the site. The Division will require the Operator to submit an amendment application pursuant to Rule 1.10 to revise the post-mining land use from general agriculture to developed water resource prior to installing slurry walls at the site.

Photographs taken during the inspection are attached. 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](mailto:peter.hays@state.co.us).

### **Inspection Contact Address**

Julie Mikulas  
Martin Marietta Materials, Inc.  
1800 N. Taft Hill Road  
Fort Collins, CO 80521

Ec: Jared Ebert, DRMS

## PHOTOGRAPHS



Cottonwood Pit mine sign



View of the backfill operation in area 8 as identified in the 2020 Annual Report Map





View of the last area to be mined identified as area 4 on the 2020 Annual Report Map



View of the west shoreline of CW4 looking south





View of the east shoreline of CW4 looking south



View of the south shoreline of CW3 looking west





View of the south shoreline of CW3 looking east



View of the east shoreline of CW2 looking north



View of the north shoreline of CW1 looking west