




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: Thomas Gravel Pit 4	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1981-286	MINERAL: Sand and gravel	COUNTY: Weld
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	INSPECTOR(S): Brock Bowles	INSP. DATE: October 14, 2020	INSP. TIME: 10:00
OPERATOR: RWT Excavating and Demolition LLC	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: None	TYPE OF OPERATION: 112c - Construction Regular Operation	
REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: None	BOND AMOUNT: \$25,000.00	
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None	
WEATHER: Clear	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: October 16, 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>N</u>	(FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY----- <u>N</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>Y</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>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

This inspection was conducted by Brock Bowles of the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division). Mr. Richard Thomas of RWT Excavating and Demolition was given notification of the inspection by a phone message on October 12, 2020 at 4:30 pm. No reply was received and no one representing the operator showed up for the inspection. The Thomas Gravel Pit is located about 4 miles west of Keota, Colorado. The site consists of 87.6 acres and approximately 52.0 acres disturbed. The permit for the Thomas Gravel Pit was revoked and a cease and desist order was issued by the Mined Land Reclamation Board, Board Order signed August 24, 2020. The post-mining land use is general agriculture. At the time of the inspection it was warm, windy, clear and the ground was dry. Smoke from the Cameron Peak Fire was blowing through the area.

The mine entrance sign was in place (photo 1). The eastern boundary of the affected area was not marked. No marker posts were seen. There were boundary markers at both the NE and NW (photo 2) corners but both markers could not be seen at the same time due to a hill between them. Additional marker posts should be installed along the northern boundary to clearly mark the boundary. Some marker posts were in place along the western boundary but it was inconsistent. The western boundary is not a straight line and therefore additional marker posts need to be installed to clearly mark the boundary. The SW corner boundary marker was in place. The southern affected boundary markers were not seen. The southern boundary has several segments and each segment needs to be clearly marked. The affected area boundary markers were cited as a Problem/Possible Violation in the January 23, 2020 inspection report. The problem has not been resolved as of this report.

In the southeast section of the pit area there was a large pile of concrete. The footprint of the pile was not measured but it is estimated to be 1 to 2 acres in size and 8-10 feet high (photos 3 and 4). The chunks of concrete are extremely large (photo 5). The concrete pile was cited as a Problem/Possible Violation in the January 23, 2020 inspection report. The problem has not been resolved and there were no indications/signs that progress was being made to remediate the problem as of this report.

The north (photo 6) and west (photo 7) sides of the pit area contain highwalls. The highwalls are about 10 feet high. Both highwalls are close to the affected area boundary. The location of the affected boundary around the highwalls will have to be located and marked to determine if the highwalls can be graded to 4h:1v slopes as required in Exhibit D of the permit or if they will have to be backfilled.

No topsoil stockpiles were noted. Several stockpiles were noted east of the scale house/entrance, but it was not clear if these stockpiles were topsoil. No recent reclamation work was noted.

Mining activity has not taken place in a long time. This conclusion was determined because of vegetation growing on the pit floor (photo 8), vegetation growing on stockpiles (photo 9), vegetation growing around mining equipment (photo 10) and tumbleweeds collecting against the highwalls (photo 7). It appears that site conditions have not changed since the last inspection in January 2020.

The Division currently holds a \$25,000 financial warranty to cover the cost of reclamation. The financial warranty was evaluated as part of the January 23, 2020 inspection. It was determined that the new warranty amount required to cover the cost of reclamation is \$154,000. This is an increase of \$129,000 over the amount currently held by the Division. Based on the observations of this inspection, the calculated financial warranty increase still applies to the mine site.

A hearing before the Mined Land Reclamation Board is scheduled for October 21, 2020 to consider the forfeiture of the financial warranty for this permit.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Phot 1 – Entrance sign from CR 96



Photo 2- NW corner marker, looking south



Photo 3 and 4 – Photos closely aligned to show size of concrete pile



Photo 5 – Concrete chunks in pile are large. Safety helmet for scale.



Photo 6 – North highwall, looking east



Photo 7 – West highwall, looking south



Photo 8 – Pit area, looking NE



Photo 9 – Stockpiles in south end of pit area



Photo 10 – Loader in middle of pit with vegetation growing around it

Inspection Contact Address

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