




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: Valley Vista Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1981-229	MINERAL: Sand and gravel	COUNTY: Mesa
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	INSPECTOR(S): Amy Yeldell	INSP. DATE: October 15, 2020	INSP. TIME: 10:00
OPERATOR: Parkerson Construction, Inc.	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Greg Monger	TYPE OF OPERATION: 112c - Construction Regular Operation	
REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: Complete Bond	BOND AMOUNT: \$77,800.00	
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None	
WEATHER: Clear	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: October 19, 2020	

GENERAL INSPECTION TOPICS

Several of the following inspection topics were identified as having a **Problem (PB)**, which includes correction actions and a deadline whereby the Operator must demonstrate compliance with the conditions of the Permit and the requirements of the Act and Rules. Failure to address the corrective actions by the deadline may cause the Division to escalate the Problem to a Possible Violation (PV) and schedule the issue for formal hearing before the Mined Land Reclamation Board (Board).

(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>NA</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>NA</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>N</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>PB</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>NA</u>	

Y = Inspected / N = Not inspected / NA = Not applicable to this operation / PB = Problem cited / PV = Possible violation cited

INSPECTION TOPIC: Reclamation Success

PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION: Problem: There are state-listed noxious weeds present on site. This is a problem for failure to employ weed control methods for state listed noxious weed species within the permitted area, and to reduce the spread of weeds to nearby areas as required by Section 3.1.10 (6) of the rule.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: The operator shall develop a weed control and management plan in accordance with Section 3.1.10 (6) of the Rule. This plan should be developed in consultation with the county extension agency, or weed control district office and should include specific control measures to be applied, a schedule for when control measures will be applied and a post-treatment monitoring plan. This weed control plan shall be submitted to the Division as a Technical Revision to the approved plan with the appropriate Technical Revision fee of \$216.00 by the corrective action date.

CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE: 12/18/20

OBSERVATIONS

This inspection was conducted as part of the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety normal monitoring program. The Valley Vista Pit is a 112 permitted site located off 32 Road, approximately 5 miles south of Clifton in Mesa County. Amy Yeldell of the Division conducted the inspection. Greg Monger represented the Operator, Parkerson Construction, Inc.

The permitted area is 49.80 acres. The site was inactive at the time of the inspection. Nearly all of the permit area has been completely mined out. Mining has ceased at this site, however final reclamation has yet to commence. A mine sign was located at the entrance pit, off of 32 Road as well as on the scale house.

No heavy equipment or processing equipment was observed on site. There are several small to medium size stockpiles that remain. According to Mr. Monger the majority of the stockpiles are imported topsoil that the land owner intends to use to cover imported material along the north side of the permit area. The north edge of the permit boundary follows the flat portions of the mesa. The landowner has imported material to fill in the gully between ridges making the mesa a more regular shaped polygon. There are no existing topsoil or overburden piles on site to be used for future reclamation. The pit floor is primarily compacted pit run and residual gravel and fines. The operator is encouraged to explore options for importing topsoil or other organic material.

The lower portion of the access road is asphalt paved. According to AM-1 the paved section of the road may remain. All non-paved areas are to be ripped, disced and seeded. There is a scale and scale house along the paved section of the access road. The permit does not explicitly state that this feature is to remain post reclamation. If the operator wishes to leave the scale and scale house post-reclamation, a Technical Revision will be required. All other trash, fuel or other mining related debris has been removed.

The site is overrun with weeds. Specifically Downy Brome/ Cheat Grass (List C), Halogeton (List C) and Tamarisk (List B). Other noxious species include Russian Thistle and Kochia. Extremely sparse desirable vegetation was observed. There appears to be no treatment of undesirable species which will further inhibit final reclamation on an already challenging site. Failure to treat noxious weeds is cited as an inspection problem. The Operator shall submit in the form of a Technical Revision with the required revision fee, a noxious weed management plan, by the corrective action date listed on page two of this inspection report.

In general the Operator needs to be more diligent about performing final reclamation measures. Noxious weeds need to be adequately controlled in order for desirable vegetation to have a chance to establish. Remaining stockpiles need to be removed or graded out. Former highwall slopes appear to be adequately regraded to a 3H: 1 V or less. The pit floor appears to still be heavily compacted and should be ripped. The reclamation plan calls for the application of fertilizer. The Division would encourage the Operator to conduct soil samples prior to fertilizer applications and only if soil results deem necessary apply fertilizer accordingly. Immediately prior to seeding, soil should be disced. If broadcast seeding is utilized, seed will need to be raked or by other means, mixed in for proper soil to seed contact. In reviewing the seed mix, this site may benefit from additional dryland arid species such as; Forage Kochia, Western Wheatgrass, Galleta Grass, Inland Salt Grass, Needle-and-thread, 4-Wings Saltbush, Fringed Sagebrush and Cicer Milkvetch. The permit specifies the application of 2 tons/ac of straw mulch to be blown and crimped into place. The site would definitely benefit from mulch and additional organic material however due to the lack of topsoil, crimping mulch into place may prove unsuccessful. Note that any deviations from the approved reclamation plan will require a Technical Revision prior to the site being released.

The Division currently requires a financial warranty amount of \$77,800 for this site. The bond was last recalculated with SI-2 in 2008. In an effort to ensure the Financial Warranty adequately, reflects the actual current cost of fulfilling the requirements of the approved reclamation plan the Division will be updating the reclamation cost estimate. If the current bond is found to be insufficient the Division will send a Notice of Surety Increase under a separate cover.

Responses to this inspection report should be directed to: Amy Yeldell at the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, 1313 Sherman St., Room 215, Denver, CO 80203. Direct contact can be made by phone at 303-866-3567 Ext 8183 or via email at amy.yeldell@state.co.us

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Enclosure

CC:
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PHOTOGRAPHS





