




**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.

<b>MINE NAME:</b> Nelson Pit	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-2020-040	<b>MINERAL:</b> Sand and gravel	<b>COUNTY:</b> Washington
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Preoperation Inspection	<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Brock Bowles	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> October 7, 2020	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 10:00
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Washington County	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Steve Williams	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 112c - Construction Regular Operation	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Preoperation Inspection	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> None	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> No Bond Held	
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> None	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None	
<b>WEATHER:</b> Clear	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> October 30, 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>N</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>N</u>	(BG) BACKFILL & GRADING----- <u>N</u>	(EX) EXPLOSIVES----- <u>N</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- <u>N</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>N</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>N</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>N</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>N</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>N</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>Y</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**

This pre-operation inspection was conducted in response to a new 112c Reclamation Permit Application for the Nelson Pit, File No. M-2020-040. Brock Bowles of the Div. of Reclamation, Mining and Safety conducted the inspection. Steve Williams of Washington County R&B was present for the inspection. The weather during the inspection was clear, warm and the ground was dry.

The 112c application was received by the Division on August 6, 2020. The application was deemed complete for filing purposes on August 18, 2020. The affidavit of publication was received from the operator on October 29, 2020. The required public notice was run on September 9, 16, 23 and 30. The public comment period closed on October 20, 2020 and no comments were received. The public notices required by Rule 1.6.2(1)(b) were posted and observed along County Road 3 (photo 1). The proposed mine site is located 9 miles south of Last Chance or approximately 25 miles north of Limon. The decision date for this application is November 11, 2020.

The application proposes to permit 52.7 acres for the purposes of mining sand and gravel. The topography of the proposed mine site is mostly flat with Vega Creek situated along the western boundary. Vega Creek is an ephemeral drainage that was dry at the time of this inspection. The main creek channel bottom is flat, wide and is about 8 feet below the surrounding landscape (photo 2). The vegetation on the creek bottom mostly consisted of dryland grass species indicating the creek does not flow often and does not retain water very long after flowing.

The vegetation in the creek bottom, on the creek benches, creek slopes and on the upland areas was mostly comprised of shortgrass prairie species (photo 3). Cheatgrass was scattered throughout the site but was not dominate. Some yucca plants were noted but were sparsely scattered across the site. A few prairie thistle plants (*Cirsium canescens*) were also noted (photo 4). This species of thistles are native to Colorado and are not noxious. There were two trees and kochia was dense in the area of the old homestead.

The southern part of the western permit boundary is the neighbor's fenceline. Washington County made a commitment to stay back 50 feet from the fenceline. Markers have been installed marking the 50 feet buffer. The southern permit boundary is marked by a fenceline along CR 3. Power lines run along the southern boundary (photo 5). A small building (approximately 8'x16') is located on the southern portion of the permit area. It is the only standing structure left of the old homestead (photo 6).

The site conditions, topography, vegetation and structure descriptions appears consistent with the description provided in the application.

## **PHOTOGRAPHS**



Photo 1 – Notice as seen from CR 3



Photo 2 – Southwest corner of permit area, facing southwest





Photo 3 – Vega Creek, looking north, fenceline is western permit boundary



Photo 4 – Prairie thistle (*Cirsium canescens*)





Photo 5 – Southern permit boundary, facing east



Photo 6 – Structure in southern part of permit area, looking southwest

**Inspection Contact Address**

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