




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: LBC Bentonite Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1977-231	MINERAL: Clay (general)	COUNTY: Fremont
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	INSPECTOR(S): Timothy Cazier, P.E.	INSP. DATE: July 21, 2021	INSP. TIME: 11:20
OPERATOR: First Bentonite Company Colorado	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Pam Wedge	TYPE OF OPERATION: 110c - Construction Limited Impact	
REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: None	BOND AMOUNT: \$11,100.00	
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: U.S.BLM	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: U.S.BLM	
WEATHER: Clear	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: August 6, 2021	

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>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>N</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--- <u>Y</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>NA</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>NA</u>	(OD) OFF-SITE DAMAGE----- <u>Y</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 Tim Cazier (DRMS) as part of the regular monitoring program. The Operator (First Bentonite Company Colorado) was represented by Ms. Pamela Wedige who was present for the inspection. Ms. Amber Sanderson (BLM) was also present for the inspection. The LBC Bentonite Pit site entrance is located off US 50, approximately 3.5 miles northwest of Coaldale, CO. This is a 110c clay mine. It is in final reclamation.

Availability of Records: Annual fees are paid through August 2020. The previous inspection was on June 26, 2016. The approved post-mine land use is wildlife habitat. There are no open infractions. The site is on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Backfilling and Grading: All backfill and grading have been completed (see **Photos 1 and 2**).

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

Financial Warranty: The DRMS holds an \$11,020 bond and will recommend full release when requested by the Permittee.

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.

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: Haul and access roads have been reclaimed (see **Photos 3 and 4**).

Right of Entry: Ms. Sanderson stated the Plan of Operations was still valid.

Reclamation Success: Highwalls have been sloped to 3H:1V or flatter, topsoiled and seeded as per the approved reclamation plan. The DRMS recommends approving a request for full reclamation liability release.

Revegetation: Ms. Wedige stated the site has been seeded three times: 1) October 2018, 2) early spring 2020, and 3) spring 2021. She said the site had been sprayed for thistle in 2019. The condition of the revegetation was very good. Some trees were also planted and are doing well (see **Photo 5**)

Sediment Control: No erosion problems were observed and no BMPs were needed at the time of the inspection.

Support Facilities On-site: No equipment remained on site.

Signs and Markers: The permit sign was properly posted (see **Photo 6**) and boundary markers were observed to still be in place.

Storm Water MGT Plan: No oil or fuel spills observed. The last element of the reclamation plan to be completed was the swale cut to allow stormwater to flow out of a pond (see **Photo 7**).

Topsoil: Topsoil has 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

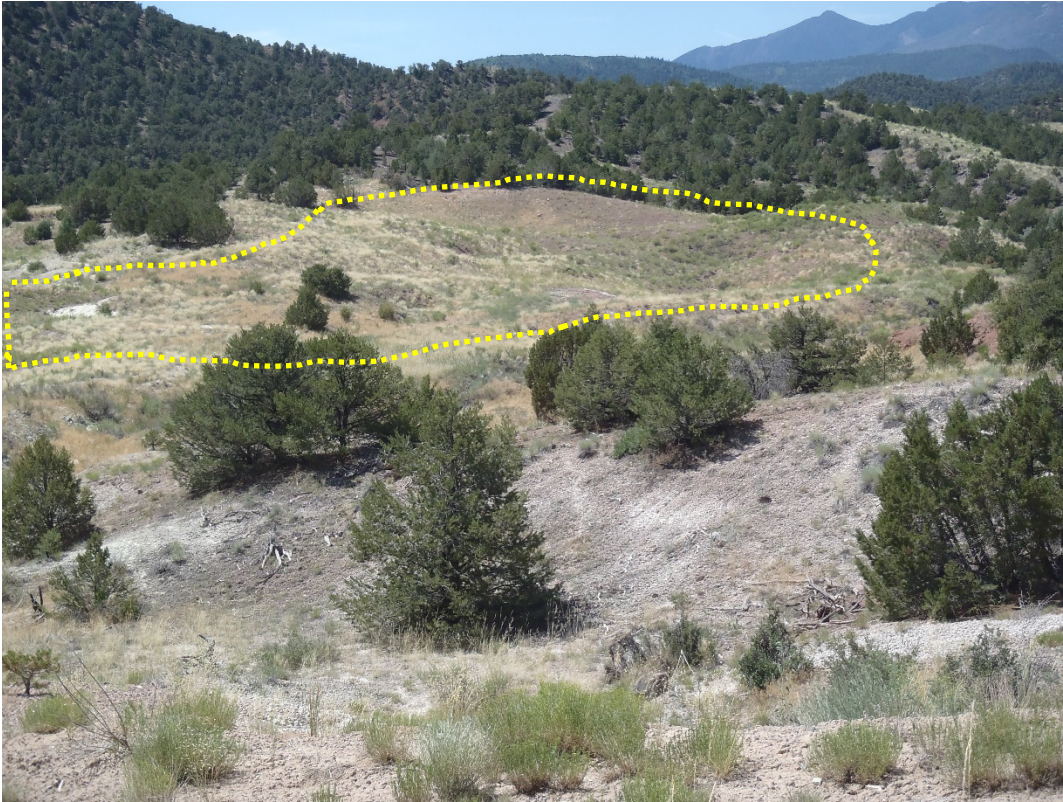


Photo 1. Reclaimed site (circled, looking south).



Photo 2. Reclaimed site (looking north from highwall)

PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)



Photo 3. Reclaimed haul road (looking NE from site center).



Photo 4. Reclaimed haul road (looking SW from site center).

PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)



Photo 5. Reclaimed area – south-center (looking south from haul road, note trees).



Photo 6. Permit sign off Rd 101A.

PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)



Photo 7. Completed swale cut for pond outlet (looking downstream/NE from pond).

Inspection Contact Address

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215 Teller St.
Salida, CO 81201

ec: DRMS file
Amber Sanderson, BLM