




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: Schneller Clay Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1989-095	MINERAL: Clay (general)	COUNTY: Phillips
INSPECTION TYPE: Surety Release Inspection	INSPECTOR(S): Brock Bowles	INSP. DATE: January 12, 2022	INSP. TIME: 10:00
OPERATOR: Phillips County	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Mike Salyards	TYPE OF OPERATION: 112c - Construction Regular Operation	
REASON FOR INSPECTION: Surety Release Requested	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: None	BOND AMOUNT: \$0.00	
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None	
WEATHER: Clear	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: January 24, 2022	

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>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

This inspection was conducted by Brock Bowles of the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division). Mike Salyards and Kevin Scott of Phillips County (Operator) were present for the inspection. The Schneller Clay Pit is located 9 mile southeast of Holyoke. The site is an active 112c operation with 19.8 acres permitted and the post-mining land use is rangeland. This inspection was carried out to evaluate the final performance warranty release request (SL-1) filed by Phillips County on December 1, 2021.

At the time of the inspection it was cold, partly cloudy, a cold breeze and the ground was partially snow covered. No mining equipment was on-site and the gate was open upon arrival.

The mine entrance sign was in place facing CR 49 (photo 1). The perimeter was marked on the west and north sides with by a fence. The east side had a line of electric fence post with no wire. The south side was marked with t-posts at the corners.

The slopes of the pit were graded to less than 3h:1v slopes (photo 2).

The pit contained water and was frozen at the time of the inspection (photo 2). The pit is located in a natural hydrological basin about 685 acres in size. The basin is not part of a larger drainage area and there is no natural drainage for the basin. The USGS Alvin NW Quadrangle, Colorado, 7.5 Minute Series Topo Map (1971) shows the basin area, and that water collected in the exact area of the Schneller Pit prior to mining activities. The major source of water in the pit is most likely tail water from a nearby irrigation pivot. The irrigation pivot is located within the same basin about 400 feet south of the pit area and is 185 acres in size. Mining activities did not impound the water in the pit.

There are 12 wells within ½ mile radius of the Schneller Pit. The wells range in depth from 160' to 356' with an average depth of 275' (source: DWR, <https://maps.dnrgis.state.co.us/dwr/Index.html?viewer=mapviewer>). The depth of the pit is approximately 10'. Mining activities did not expose ground water.

The north side of the pit area was the stockpile area during active mining. This area has been graded to slope toward the pit area (photo 3). The area is well vegetated and stable with the exception of one gully on the west side (photo 4). The gully needs to be repaired and seeded when the weather is appropriate in the spring.

The south side of the pit area was the topsoil stockpile area. The topsoil has been replaced and the area has been graded and seeded. The area is well vegetated and stable with the exception of a couple of gullies (photo 5). The gullies are the result of tail water coming off the irrigation pivot. These gullies need to be repaired and seeded when the weather is appropriate in the spring.

The Division will deny approval of the SL-1 application because the gullies noted need to be repaired and seeded prior to the release of the site. The Division suggests to wait until after the ground thaws so that repairs can be made and then resubmit a release application.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1 – Mine entrance sign facing CR 49



Photo 2 – West side of pit area, facing south



Photo 3 – Northern stockpile area



Photo 4 – Gully in the northern stockpile area



Photo 5 – Gully in the southern stockpile area

Inspection Contact Address

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CC: