




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: Ghost River Gravel Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-2003-002	MINERAL: Sand and gravel	COUNTY: Huerfano
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	INSPECTOR(S): Patrick Lennberg	INSP. DATE: February 1, 2022	INSP. TIME: 09:45
OPERATOR: HCR High Country Repair	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Natasha Branch	TYPE OF OPERATION: 110c - Construction Limited Impact	
REASON FOR INSPECTION: Priority	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: Partial Bond	BOND AMOUNT: \$19,112.00	
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None	
WEATHER: Cloudy	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: February 11, 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>Y</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>Y</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>N</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>Y</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>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

The Ghost River Gravel Pit was inspected by Patrick Lennberg with the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division/DRMS). The inspection was completed as part of priority inspection to assess the conditions of the site since the Board Order was signed on October 22, 2021. The site was previously inspected by the Division on July 28, 2021 as part of the Division's routine monitoring program. Natasha Branch (Goldberg) representing the permittee High Country Repair met me at the site. The weather was cloudy.

The Ghost River Gravel Pit is located in Huerfano County approximately 4.5 miles east of the Lascar exit, Exit 64, from I-25 on County Road 110. The mine is a 110 construction materials permit for 9.9 acres on property owned by Natasha Goldberg. The primary commodity that is mined at the site is gravel for fill and landscaping. The approved post-mining land use is rangeland and the land surrounding the pit is rangeland. A mine sign was posted at the mine entrance pursuant to Rule 3.1.12.

On October 22, 2021 the Mined Land Reclamation Board (MLRB/Board) signed an order that found the permittee/operator in violation of CRS 34-32.5-116(4)(i) for failure to protect areas outside the affected land, approximately 1.8 acres, from slides or damages occurring during mining or reclamation. The Board ordered the permittee/operator to submit a conversion application within 90 days of the order and assessed civil penalties totaling \$43,000 with all but \$4,300 suspended if the conversion application was submitted within the 90 day timeframe. The unsuspended portion of the civil penalty, \$4,300, was due within 30 days of the date of the Board order (October 22, 2021). At the time of writing this inspection report the unsuspended portion of the civil penalty, \$4,300 due on November 21, 2021, has not been received. Additionally, the conversion application due on January 20, 2022 has not been received. The Division will schedule the permit to be heard before the MLRB during the March 2022 hearing for permit revocation and forfeiture of the financial warranty. Finally, the entire civil penalty amount, \$43,000, will be sent to collections and High Country Repair will be the debtor.

During the inspection the Division discussed with Ms. Branch possible paths forward to avoid permit revocation and the unsuspended portion of the civil penalty, \$38,700, coming due. She was advised to pay the \$4,300 as soon as she was able. A day after the inspection the Division, sent her a list, from the Division's website, of consultants that have done permitting with Division. The intent is to begin the process of resolving the Board ordered corrective actions before the March hearing. At the March hearing the permittee/operator could request and extension to due dates.

The site was not active at the time of inspection. However there has been some activity at the site since the last inspection. Trash and refuse has been removed from the site including the concrete pipes and 55-gal drum that were located in the dry drainage to the south of the site. The Division will abate this problem. The other problem cited, missing a structure agreement for the powerline is still active. The area to the west of the permit boundary where material had been placed beyond the permit boundary has had that material removed and the area seeded. Also the southern area has also been cleaned up and seeded. A pothole located north of the permit boundary has been filled in graded and seeded.

The financial warranty was recalculated during the previous inspection and it was determined that the current bond amount held is inadequate. In August 2021 the Division issued a surety increase, SI-2, for the site. The Division extended the due date for SI-2 on November 16, 2021 to January 15, 2022. Currently, SI-2 is still

outstanding.

Photographs taken during the inspection are attached.

Please contact Patrick Lennberg (303)866-3567 ext. 8114 or email at patrick.lennberg@state.co.us if you have any questions regarding this report.

Inspection Contact Address

Natasha Branch
HCR High Country Repair
2632 McCormick Ave.
Pueblo, CO 81001

cc: Jared Ebert, DRMS

ec: Natasha Branch, High Country Repair, highcountryrepair@outlook.com

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: Looking north from the southwestern permit corner



Photo 2: Looking east from the southwestern permit corner towards the mine entrance



Photo 3: Looking east along the drainage where the concrete pipes were located



Photo 4: Looking west towards the sw permit corner note trash piles have been removed



Photo 5: Old equipment has been moved towards the mine entrance and the southern permit area has been cleaned and seeded



Photo 6: Mining area and mine equipment remaining at the site



Photo 7: Looking south along the western permit boundary



Photo 8: Looking east from the northwestern permit corner towards the northeastern corner



Photo 9: Looking south at the mine area



Photo 10: Reclaimed pothole area near the NE permit corner



Photo 11: Looking from the NE permit corner west towards the NW permit corner



Photo 12: Looking west across the mine area