




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: North River Gravel Pit Extension	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1999-007	MINERAL: Gravel	COUNTY: Rio Blanco
INSPECTION TYPE: Surety-Related Inspection	INSPECTOR(S): Amy Yeldell	INSP. DATE: March 10, 2022	INSP. TIME: 10:15
OPERATOR: George T. Weldon Construction, LLC	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Mike Weldon	TYPE OF OPERATION: 112c - Construction Regular Operation	
REASON FOR INSPECTION: Surety Related	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: Complete Bond	BOND AMOUNT: \$25,900.00	
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None	
WEATHER: Clear	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: March 14, 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>Y</u>	(FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY----- <u>Y</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>Y</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>NA</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>NA</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>Y</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>N</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>N</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>Y</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>NA</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

OBSERVATIONS

This inspection was conducted by the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety. The North River Gravel Pit Extension is a 112c permitted site located approximately 3 miles northeast of Rangely Colorado in Rio Blanco County. Mike Weldon represent George T Weldon Construction, LLC and accompanied Amy Yeldell of the Division on the inspection.

On October 12, 2021 the Operator withdrew the 112c Conversion Application (CN-1) for this pit and entered into final reclamation. That notice was accepted and the Division calculated a preliminary estimate of the financial warranty based on the actual site liability. Given the significant increase the Division gave the Operator a period of time to make progress towards reclamation in lieu of an immediate Surety Increase. On February 28, 2022 the Division received notice from the Operator that all dirt work had been completed on site. As previously agreed upon the Division would conduct a site inspection to re-evaluate the reclamation cost estimate.

During this inspection the Division has confirmed that all slopes previously identified have been graded to a 3H: 1V or less. All available topsoil on site has been reapplied. The site in general may still be lacking topsoil given the historical use of the site and the overall deficiency of topsoil in undisturbed locations. As previously noted the road through the middle of the property/mine is to remain in place, as well as the entrance gate. The other interstitial roads appear to have been ripped.

The revegetation aspect still remains in order to complete final reclamation. All areas void of vegetation and recently disturbed by mining shall be revegetated. This is estimated to be approximately 17 acres. Prior to seed application the seed bed should be prepared, meaning use of a disk harrow or other similar equipment to break up any large clumps of soil and lightly decompact areas that may have settled since initial grading. Next the approved seed mix should be applied. For any applications other than drill seeding, double the approved seeding rate shall be used followed by light dragging or other means to ensure soil to seed contact. The approved reclamation plan also calls for the application of 2 tons per/ac of straw mulch applied with a power mulcher then crimped into place. Lastly annual and noxious weeds on site should be managed to the extent that successful reclamation is not inhibited. For any areas where revegetation has 'failed' to establish reseeding should occur until successful.

The feasibility of the current reclamation plan was discussed during the inspection. Any deviations from the currently approved reclamation plan will require a technical revision (TR), form attached. A more appropriate seed mix for the site was discussed. Omitting shrubs which will naturally volunteer to the site and placing an emphasis on diverse early succession species (grasses and forbs) may be useful. Other desirable species could include: Needle and thread, sand dropseed, Bluebunch wheatgrass, thickspike wheatgrass, western wheatgrass, Flax-Lewis Blue, scarlet globemallow, alkali sacaton, Russian wildrye. The operator is encouraged to work with their seed vendor to develop a more site specific robust mix. Additionally the feasibility of crimping in mulch was deliberated given the lack of fine soil materials that would hold the mulch in place. The purpose of the mulch is to give the seedlings cover and increase moisture retention. However if it cannot be effectively applied it's uneconomical. Soil amendments such as compost or fine wood mulch may offer similar benefits. Ultimately it's the Operators decision to weight the cost to benefit outcome and make any adjustments accordingly. Successful reclamation will be when the mine site has dry rangeland established at a density of approximately 70-80% of the adjacent undisturbed areas.

Based on the progress made the estimated site liability is approximately \$46,462 (see attached). The Division currently holds \$25,900 in financial warranty, a deficit of \$20,562. Once seeding occurs the current bond will

be sufficient to cover the remaining site liability. The Division acknowledges that the Operator has made significant progress towards lowering the overall site liability. The Division will allow additional time to complete the remaining final reclamation tasks, seeding of the site should occur within the next 60 days. Please provide the Division with documentation in the form of a seed tag and a statement that the site has been seeded no later than Monday, May 16, 2022. If documentation is not received by May 16, 2022, then the Division will assume that seeding is not to occur until this fall and a Notice of Surety Increase will be sent to ensure adequate bonding is held.

Responses to this inspection report should be directed to: Amy Yeldell at the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, Room 215, 1001 E 62nd Ave, Denver, CO 80216. Direct contact can be made by phone at 303-866-3567 Ext 8183 or via email at amy.yeldell@state.co.us

Inspection Contact Address

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Enclosure

CC:
Travis Marshall, Senior EPS, Grand Junction DRMS
Tyler Pratt, Landowner

PHOTOGRAPHS



