



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: Lemoine Gravel Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1979-140	MINERAL: Sand and gravel	COUNTY: Delta
INSPECTION TYPE: Surety Release Inspection	INSPECTOR(S): Clayton Wein	INSP. DATE: March 22, 2022	INSP. TIME: 11:30
OPERATOR: Delta County	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Tim McCracken	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: Cloudy	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: April 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>N</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>N</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>Y</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>Y</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>Y</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

This was a Surety Release Inspection (SL-1) for the Lemoine Pit (M-1979-140). The inspection was conducted on March 22, 2022. The inspection was conducted by Clayton Wein of the Division. Tim McCracken of Delta County represented the operator. The Lemoine Pit is a permitted 112c operation located east of Hotchkiss Colorado, off of CO 133. Final seeding of the mine site occurred in 2019. The weather was partly cloudy with a temperature of 46 degrees F. The ground conditions were dry.

Fish and Wildlife:

Throughout the inspection, several droppings from deer were seen. Tracks were also seen in those areas.

Hydrologic Balance:

The mine site had been reclaimed and reseeded in two separate phases. The southwestern portion of the site was returned to approximate original contour (AOC) and reseeded in 2011. The northeastern portion of the site was returned to AOC and reseeded in 2019. The southwestern portion had some vegetative growth on it helping to stabilize the soil. There were no indications of riling or gulying. There were no off site impacts observed from this portion of the site. The notheastern portion of the site was stable with vegetative cover. There were some plant species beginning to green. There were no indications of erosional features on this half of the mine site. No off site impacts were observed. The northern portion of the permit is a reclaimed 3:1 slope extending from the original elevation of the site down to the reclaimed elevation of the mine. This slope was observed to be stable with no erosional features.

Reclamation Success:

The post mining land use for the Lemoine Pit is pastureland. The mine site has been completely returned to the final contours approved in the reclamation plan. The site has a gentle slope to the south-southwest. The northern portion of the site has a reclaimed slope that was graded to 3:1. Vegetation observed on the southwestern portion of the site was beginning to green; however, not much growth has occurred (Photo 1). The inspection took place at the beginning of the spring. Vegetation at the site has not had time yet to mature. The southwestern portion of the site was reseeded in 2011. There appeared to be consistent vegetative cover in this area from the previous growing season. The site was stable and there were no erosional features observed. **The Division recommends another growing season to allow more time for mature vegetative cover on the western portion of the site.** The northeastern portion of the site was reseeded in 2019. This area was beginning to green for the spring as well. The vegetative cover from the previous growing season was observed to be consistent with its coverage of the reclaimed area. Due to the inspection occurring in the early spring, the vegetation on the northeastern end of the site has not matured (Photo 2 and 3). There were no indications of instability or erosion. **The Division recommends allowing another growing season to allow for mature vegetative cover to establish at the eastern portion of the site.** There was also evidence of knapweed on the eastern portion of the site. **Please use approved weed management practices to control the knapweed on the mine site.** The reclaimed slope at the northern portion of the permitted area had a gradient of roughly 3:1 slopes. The slope was stable with no erosional features observed. The vegetative growth on the slope was observed to be patchy (Photo 4). There were large sections of the reclaimed slope that were barren (Photo 4 and 5). **The Division recommends applying another round of the approved seed mix to the slope. The slope will need to have mature, consistent vegetative cover to meet the requirements of the approved reclamation plan.**

Signs and Markers:

The Mine Identification sign was posted at the entrance to the mine site, at the southwest corner of the permit area. The sign was posted in a clear location and contained the required information regarding the mine permit, the permittee and the Division. The Permit boundary markers were observed throughout the inspection of the site. The markers are posted in clear locations and visible from one another.

Conclusions:

At this time, from the observations made during the March 22, 2022 Inspection, the Division cannot approve Delta County's request for full and final release of the 33.3 acres and financial warranty of the Lemoine Pit. The Division based this decision on the conditions of the vegetation at the mine site. The vegetation needs additional time to mature and weed control practices need to be implemented to control the knapweed onsite. The reclaimed slope on the northern portion of the permit area needs to be reseeded with the approved seed mix. Consistent vegetative cover on the slope must be established to meet the requirements of the reclamation plan.

Through Discussions with the operator, the Division understands that the landowner wishes to utilize the field as soon as possible. The permittee informed the Division that the landowner may want to install an irrigation system for the field. The Division recommends that the permittee apply for a Technical Revision to install the irrigation system if the landowner wishes to not wait for the permit to be released. The irrigation system may further help the vegetation at the site achieve reclamation success. Please contact the Division to discuss the details of a future Technical Revision if the permittee and landowner wish to pursue this option.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: The southwestern portion of the permitted area (reseeded in 2011). The photo was taken looking to the northeast.



Photo 2: The northeastern portion of the permit area (reseeded in 2019). The photo was taken looking to the northeast. Knapweed was present in this location.



Photo 3: The northeastern portion of the permit area (reseeded in 2019). The photo was taken looking to the east. Knapweed was present in this location.



Photo 4: The western end of the reclaimed slope at the northern portion of the permit area. Sections of the slope have patchy vegetative growth.



Photo 5: The eastern end of the reclaimed slope at the northern portion of the permit area. Large sections of the slope have barren spots with little to no vegetative cover.

Inspection Contact Address

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Enclosure

CC: Travis Marshall, Senior Environmental Protection Specialist.