



COLORADO


Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety

Department of Natural Resources

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.

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|---|--|---|-----------------------------|
| MINE NAME: Howard Creek Pit #1 & #2 | MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1999-033 | MINERAL: Gravel | COUNTY: Fremont |
| INSPECTION TYPE: Surety-Related Inspection | INSPECTOR(S): Timothy Cazier, P.E. | INSP. DATE: April 20, 2022 | INSP. TIME: 09:30 |
| OPERATOR: Fremont County | OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Sterling Rife | TYPE OF OPERATION: 110c - Construction Limited Impact | |
| 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: Other Agency | |
| WEATHER: Clear | INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:  | SIGNATURE DATE: April 28, 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.

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| (AR) RECORDS----- <u>Y</u> | (FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY----- <u>NA</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>N</u> | (RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>Y</u> |
| (ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>Y</u> | (SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>Y</u> | (ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>N</u> |
| (AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>Y</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 as part of the request for release from reclamation liability. The Permittee (Fremont County) was represented by Mr. Sterling Rife during the inspection. Ms. Debbie Mitchell and Mr. Greg Langer (representing the Fremont Conservation District/FCD) and Mr. Bill Canterbury (landowner) were also present for the inspection. The Howard Creek Pit #1 & #2 is located approximately 3 miles west of Howard at the intersection of Fremont Co Rd 4 and Canterbury Ranch Road in Fremont Co. This is a 110c gravel mine undergoing final reclamation.

Availability of Records: Annual reports are current, having been filed through May 2022 (received 4/28/2022). The previous inspection was on March 7, 2018. The approved post-mine land use is rangeland. There are no open infractions. Both the surface and minerals are privately owned.

Acid And Toxic Materials: No acid or toxic materials are involved in this operation.

Backfilling and Grading: Both the west side (see **Photo 1**) and the east side (see **Photo 2**) were inspected. All backfilling and grading appeared to meet the required 3H:1V reclamation slopes.

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

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: The haul and access roads must remain for the landowner to access his land to the south of the east pit.

Right of Entry: Fremont County's lease was current at the time of the inspection.

Reclamation Success: As can be seen in **Photos 1, 2, 3** and **4** the slope reclamation appeared adequate. The east pit floor (see **Photo 5**) has been ripped and seeded, with minimal growth.

Revegetation: As indicated above, all areas, save the east pit floor were observed to support adequate vegetation. Mr. Canterbury explained he runs cattle through the area and that he transports the herd on the adjacent County Road (FC4/Howard Creek Rd) using semi-trucks. He intends to use the east pit floor for cattle corals and a place for the cattle trucks to turn around. He also stated the ripped floor would be a good base for the cattle to be staged and that he was satisfied with the reclamation status. As cattle truck turnaround and staging are necessary activity for rangeland, the DRMS accepts the east pit floor as observed to be releasable. Representatives from the FCD stated they were satisfied with the revegetation status as well.

Other than a small amount of Common Mullein (a list C noxious weed) observed on the west side, no noxious weeds were observed. As mullein is a list C species no control is required.

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

Support Facilities On-site: No processing equipment was observed on site.

Signs and Markers: The permit sign was properly posted (see **Photo 6**).

Permit Stipulations: There are no permit stipulations.

Topsoil: All stockpiled topsoil had been placed.

Closeout Meeting: All parties agreed the site was adequately reclaimed. I will recommend full release from reclamation liability. You will be notified under separate cover of the DRMS decision.

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 west side (looking WSW).

PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)



Photo 2. Reclaimed east side (looking south).



Photo 3. Reclaimed east side of mined area added through AM-1 (looking NW).

PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)



Photo 4. Reclaimed west side of mined area added through AM-1 (looking SW).



Photo 5. Ripped and seeded east pit floor to be used for cattle loading (looking south).

PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)



Photo 6. Permit sign.

Inspection Contact Address

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Cañon City, CO 81212

ec: DRMS file
Debbie Mitchell, FCD