




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: May 18, 2022	INSP. TIME: 10:00
OPERATOR: Phillips County	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: None	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: May 31, 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 of Phillips County (Operator) was contacted by phone and was not able to attend the inspection. He gave permission to conduct the inspection in his absence. 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 (SL2) filed by Phillips County on April 7, 2022.

At the time of the inspection it was warm, partly cloudy and the ground was dry. No mining equipment was on-site, the gate was closed upon arrival and the mine entrance sign was in place facing CR 49 (photo 1). According to Mr. Salyards, the mined area was grazed and the cattle were removed from this area 2 days prior to the inspection.

The north side of the pit area was the stockpile area during active mining. This area has been graded to less than 3h:1v and to slope toward the pit area (photo 2). The area is well vegetated and stable. The gully on the west side that was noted in the January inspection report had been repaired and seeded (photo 3). A wattle had been installed as part of the repair but was disturbed by the cattle.

The area was recently grazed leaving the grasses and forbs too short to identify species. No noxious species were noted.

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. The gullies noted in the January 2022 inspection report had been repaired and seeded. Some of the erosion blanket used for the repair had been disturbed by the cattle (photo 4).

The pit contained water and several species of dabbling ducks were swimming on the pond. 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.

No objections to the full reclamation responsibility release request were received by the Division.

The Division will recommend approval of the final performance and financial warranties release request (SL2) based on the observations from this inspection.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1 – Mine entrance sign facing CR 49



Photo 2 – North and west side of pond area, photo facing south



Photo 3 – Gully repair in the northwest section.



Photo 4 – Gully repair on the south side of the pond

Inspection Contact Address

None
Phillips County
221 S. Interocean Ave.
Holyoke, CO 80734