



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.

MINE NAME: Indian Springs Park Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-2001-087	MINERAL: Gravel	COUNTY: Fremont
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	INSPECTOR(S): Timothy Cazier, P.E.	INSP. DATE: April 20, 2022	INSP. TIME: 12:50
OPERATOR: Fremont County	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Sterling Rife	TYPE OF OPERATION: 112c - Construction Regular Operation	

REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: None	BOND AMOUNT: \$0.00
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: Colo. Land Board	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None
WEATHER: Clear	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: June 3, 2022

The following inspection topics were identified as having Problems or Possible Violations. OPERATORS SHOULD READ THE FOLLOWING PAGES CAREFULLY IN ORDER TO ASSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE PERMIT AND APPLICABLE RULES AND REGULATIONS. If a Possible Violation is indicated, you will be notified under separate cover as to when the Mined Land Reclamation Board will consider possible enforcement action.

INSPECTION TOPIC: Hydrologic Balance

PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION: Problem: The Division has no evidence that the operator has a valid well permit, substitute water supply plan, or approved water augmentation plan for the exposed groundwater at the site. This is a problem related to 34-32.5-116(4)(h) of the Colorado Revised Statutes and 3.1.6(1)(a) of the Construction Materials Rules and Regulations governing injury to existing water rights.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: The operator shall demonstrate that the operation is in compliance with the Office of the State Engineer, show evidence that the operator is taking measures to bring the site into compliance with the SEO, or backfill the pits to at least two feet above the groundwater surface by the corrective action date specified.

CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE: 8/03/22

OBSERVATIONS

This inspection was conducted by Tim Cazier (DRMS) as part of the regular monitoring program. The Operator (Fremont County) was represented by Mr. Sterling Rife who was present for the inspection. The Indian Springs Park Pit site access road entrance is located approximately 13 miles south of Hwy 50 and Co. Rd 3 (Copper Gulch Rd) off Fremont Co. Rd 28. This is a 112c gravel mine. The mine was not operating at the time of the inspection, by a haul truck was parked near the product stockpile.

Availability of Records: Annual reports are current, having been filed through January 2022. The previous inspection was on August 7, 2018. The approved post-mine land use is rangeland. There are no open infractions. Both the surface and minerals are managed by the Colorado State Land Board. There have been no revisions to this permit.

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

Backfilling and Grading: Sufficient backfill material appeared to be available for reclamation.

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 on the pit floor. However, standing water was observed in the sediment pond (see **Photo 1**). The water surface area was estimated to be 30 feet in diameter. A subsequent review of Google Earth imagery revealed the pond was expanded between 2013 and 2016. The presence of the water also appears to be constant, suggesting that it is exposed groundwater. **The exposed groundwater is cited as a problem on page 1 of this report.**

Gen. Compliance with Mine Plan: The operation appeared to be in compliance with the approved mine plan. The maximum allowed disturbed area is 20 acres. Google Earth was used to measure the disturbed area, which was approximately 6.2 acres (including the access road and topsoil stockpiles), based on older 2019 imagery. Highwalls were estimated to vary between 15 and 20 feet in height and appeared stable (see **Photo 2**).

Off-site Damage: The operation appeared to be confined to the permit boundary, based on Google Earth review and site observations.

Processing Waste: Some oversize material piles were observed (see **Photo 3**). Mr. Rife indicated they would be used to backfill the sediment pond.

Roads: Haul and access roads did not appear to be a source of sediment that could be tracked offsite. Road side ditches were clean.

Right of Entry: Mr. Rife stated the County's lease with the SLB was current at the time of the inspection.

Reclamation Success: Limited reclamation has been initiated in the southeast corner.

Revegetation: Mr. Rife indicated a small area in the southeast corner had been seeded. Other than a small amount of common mullein (a List C species not requiring treatment – see **Photo 1**), no noxious weeds were observed.

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

Support Facilities On-site: A dozer, and haul truck were observed on site (see **Photo 4**).

Signs and Markers: The permit sign was properly posted (see **Photo 5**) and boundary markers were observed to delineate the permit boundary (see **Photo 6**).

Permit Stipulations: There is one open stipulation: Prior to conducting any blasting at the Indian Springs Park Pit, the operator will submit and receive approval for a Geotechnical Stability Exhibit in accordance with Rule 6.5(4) of the Construction Materials Rules and Regulations of the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board.

Storm Water MGT Plan: No oil or fuel spills observed. Stormwater is directed to the sediment pond.

Topsoil: Topsoil has been stripped, stockpiled on the perimeter and is labeled as such (see **Photo 7**).

Structures: No structures were observed within 200 feet of the affected area.

Post Inspection Meeting: The only issue needing to be addressed is the exposed groundwater in the sediment pond.

Please contact Tim Cazier (303)328-5229 or email at tim.cazier@state.co.us if you have any questions regarding this report.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1. Water (most likely groundwater) in sediment pond and a few mullein stalks.

PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)



Photo 2. Highwalls on advancing north end (looking west).



Photo 3. Oversize material stockpiles (just west of sediment pond, looking SW).

PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)



Photo 4. Dozer and haul truck, product stockpile in between (looking SW).



Photo 5. Permit sign at entrance off Copper Gulch Rd/CR28.

PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)



Photo 6. Typical boundary marker (east corner, looking SSE).



Photo 7. Labeled topsoil stockpile (looking NE).

GENERAL INSPECTION TOPICS

The following list identifies the environmental and permit parameters inspected and gives a categorical evaluation of each

(AR) RECORDS----- <u>Y</u>	(FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY----- <u>NA</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>Y</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>PB</u>	(BG) BACKFILL & GRADING----- <u>Y</u>	(EX) EXPLOSIVES----- <u>NA</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- <u>Y</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>N</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>Y</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>Y</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>Y</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

Inspection Contact Address

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ec: DRMS file
Ben Teschner, SLB