




**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.

<b>MINE NAME:</b> Smith Pit	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-2021-035	<b>MINERAL:</b> Clay (general) and sand gravel	<b>COUNTY:</b> Yuma
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Nikie Gagnon	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> August 11, 2022	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 10:00
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Yuma County	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Tom Andersen	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 112c - Construction Regular Operation	

<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Citizen Complaint	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> None	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$0.00
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> None	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None
<b>WEATHER:</b> Clear	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> August 22, 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:** Topsoil

**PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION:** Problem: The topsoil stockpiles do not have established vegetation on them and are therefore susceptible to erosion. Rule 3.1.9(1) states if topsoil is not replaced into the backfill area within a time short enough to avoid deterioration of the topsoil, vegetative cover or other means shall be employed so that the topsoil is protected from erosion.

**CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:** The operator shall seed the stockpiles with the seed mix that was submitted as part of the approved Reclamation Plan. The Operator shall demonstrate compliance by submitting seed tags, a bill of sale or photographs of seeding activities. The Operator may also request a follow up inspection.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE:** 11/30/22

## **OBSERVATIONS**

This inspection was prompted by a complaint received on August 8, 2022, by the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division/DRMS) indicating that the operators of the mine are not following the mine and reclamation plan and a unapproved fuel truck is parked on site.

This Smith Pit is a 96.00 acre 112c mining operation for clay, sand and gravel. The operator indicated they are currently mining in support of a large highway project in the county.

### **Gen. Compliance with Mine Plan:**

The approved mine plan calls for placing topsoil and overburden along the northern boundary of the permit area. During the inspection, topsoil was stored along the northern edge of the Phase 1 mining area, and along the northern permit boundary. Tom Andersen indicated the topsoil location near the active mining cell is preferred because they would like to reclaim in phases and would prefer to keep the topsoil closer to the active pit for ease of replacing the soil. During the inspection, the Division discussed with Mr. Anderson that a Technical Revision is needed to update the mine and reclamation plan maps and narratives to address the phased mining and reclamation approach and the location of the topsoil as it differs from the current approved plan.

**Fuel Storage:** The complaint indicated a 1000 gallon fuel tank was on site within the permit boundary. No tank was observed during the inspection, however, Tom Andersen stated there was a tank on site recently. The Division informed Mr. Andersen that under the current approved permit, no fuel tank is allowed on site. If Yuma County would like to install a fuel tank in the future, a Technical Revision will be required. The Technical Revision must show the location of the fuel tank on Exhibit C Mine Plan map and the narrative should describe the type of tank and associated containment structure that will ensure protection of surface and groundwater resources.

### **Roads:**

A gravel access road to the site is adequately maintained. An interior dirt road runs along the southern boundary of the permit area.

### **Hydrologic Balance:**

The pit was dry during the inspection. A trench runs along the interior road to move stormwater around the active mining area. Per Rule 6.4.4(c) this water diversion feature should be added to the narrative in the Mine Plan in the Technical Revision.

### **Signs and Markers:**

A mine sign is posted at the entrance and the permit boundary is clearly marked with t-posts painted red at the top.

**PHOTOGRAPHS**



Looking east from the interior access road. Entrance to the active mining area, parking/staging area.



Looking north across phase 1 pit area of active mining. Topsoil pile along northern edge of pit.





Looking west across phase 2 area, edge of current disturbance in foreground.



Looking south across phase 1 area. Stockpiled product in distance.



Looking north along interior access road. Arrow points to water diversion trench.





Side view of topsoil pile, edge of phase 1 pit.



Close-up of topsoil pile, northern boundary of Phase 1 pit.





Product stockpile behind Phase 1 pit.



Topsoil/overburden pile along northern boundary permit area.



Southwest corner boundary marker, looking east.



### 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>N</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>Y</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>Y</u>	(BG) BACKFILL & GRADING----- <u>Y</u>	(EX) EXPLOSIVES----- <u>N</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- <u>N</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>N</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>PB</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>Y</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>N</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>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

#### Inspection Contact Address

Tom Andersen  
Yuma County  
1310 S Blake St  
Wray, CO 80758

CC: Jason Musick, Senior EPS, DRMS