

## **OBSERVATIONS**

This was a monitoring inspection of the White Wolf Construction Borrow Pit, Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (DRMS or Division) permit number M-2018-029, operated by White Wolf Construction & Landscaping, LLC. I, Connor Drinkard and Jared Ebert with DRMS conducted the inspection. Mr. Bernard (Joe) Montoya with White Wolf Construction & Landscaping, LLC accompanied us during the inspection. Mr. Montoya has indicated he is no longer selling material from the site and is instead transporting it to another location within his property. Mr. Montoya plans to begin reclamation of the site soon. It is expected that the operation will be complete and the excavation will be graded in accordance with the reclamation plan by the end of the year.

### **Hydrologic Balance:**

No water observed.

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

A small excavation was observed on the north side of the site, consisting of a small cut about 2-6 feet in height. As discussed above, Mr. Montoya is hauling material excavated from the site to an area on his property that he is filling. In accordance with Rule 1.1(50.1), all extraction and export of materials must be completed within 12 months of permit issuance. This permit was issued on May 24, 2019, therefore excavation and export should have been completed by May 24, 2020. Mr. Montoya attested that he has not exported any material from the site since the initial violation was issued for the operation. The Division has no evidence to confirm or deny this statement. Therefore, DRMS will require Mr. Montoya to cease operations and complete reclamation of the site by the end of 2022. If Mr. Montoya desires to continue excavation and exporting material, then he will need to apply for and obtain a new permit.

### **Signs and Markers:**

The mine identification sign and affected area boundary markers were not observed per the requirements of Rule 3.1.12. This issue is cited as a problem at the beginning of this report.

### **Backfill & Grading:**

The pit walls were at a near vertical angle. No backfill or grading of the highwalls has occurred. The pit floor consists of a level area.

### **Erosion/Sedimentation:**

Prominent rills were observed leading into the western highwall. The surrounding un-affected land consists of a steep drainage with sparse vegetation established and is also eroding.

### **Off-Site Damage:**

No off-site damage observed. However, since the permit boundary was not marked it was difficult to definitively state that off-site areas have not been affected.

### **Roads:**

Access road appeared accurate.

### **Topsoil:**

Little topsoil observed. Enough topsoil is supposed to be salvaged for 4-6 inches in the reclaimed areas.

Reclamation Plan/Compliance:

Reclamation has not begun but it is expected that the operation will be complete and the excavation will be graded in accordance with the reclamation plan by the end of the year. (4-6 inches of topsoil, 3H:1V slopes, Zone 2 Foothills Lower Montane seed mix for seeding.)

Financial Warranty:

The current required financial warranty for the site is \$2,500.00, the Division currently holds a financial warranty in the amount of \$2,500.00 for this site in the form of the letter of credit. The Division has evaluated the reclamation liability for the site and calculated it to be \$3,628.00. This amount is \$1,128.00 more than the financial warranty currently held. The Division requests the operator review the enclosed reclamation cost estimate and provide the Division any questions or comments by April 1, 2022. The Division may issue a required surety increase notice after this date in accordance with Rule 4.2.1(2). If so, the operator will have sixty days from the date of this notice to provide the additionally required surety.

## **PHOTOGRAPHS**



**Figure 1. Affected area looking north from the access road.**





**Figure 2. Where the affected area drains to (looking southeast of the permit area).**





**Figure 3. Permit area looking southeast.**





**Figure 4. Where Mr. Montoya indicated the material is being taken to (within his property about .25 miles west of the permit area). Looking south.**

### 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>Y</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>NA</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES-----	<u>NA</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>PB</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN----	<u>Y</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP--	<u>Y</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE-----	<u>NA</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--	<u>Y</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS-----	<u>NA</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS-----	<u>NA</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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Enclosure: **Cost Estimate**

CC: None