




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: Durham Sand & Gravel Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1978-056	MINERAL: Sand and gravel	COUNTY: Weld
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	INSPECTOR(S): Robert Zuber, P.E.	INSP. DATE: September 1, 2022	INSP. TIME: 13:00
OPERATOR: Varra Companies, Inc.	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Garrett Varra, Brad Janes	TYPE OF OPERATION: 112c - Construction Regular Operation	

REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: None	BOND AMOUNT: \$300,000.00
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None
WEATHER: Clear	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: September 27, 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: Revegetation

PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION: Problem: Russian olive trees and tamarisk are present within or have volunteered into the permit area and are becoming established. This is a problem for failure to employ weed control methods for a state listed noxious weed species within the permitted area, and to reduce the spread of weeds to nearby areas as required by Section 3.1.10 (6) of the rule.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: The operator shall implement the existing weed control plan in accordance with Section 3.1.10 (6) of the Rule.

CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE: 11/30/22

OBSERVATIONS

The Durham Sand & Gravel Pit (Durham site) includes approximately 230 acres, and was active during the inspection. The current area that is being mined at the Durham site is a combination of Tracts A and C, roughly the eastern half of the site.

The Durham site was previously inspected in March of 2017 by the Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety (DRMS). In the associated report written by DRMS, it was noted that Varra Companies, Inc. (Varra) intends to request that the post-mining land use be revised from general agriculture to Water Resources (via an amendment). During this September 1, 2022 inspection, Garrett Varra indicated that this amendment application is on hold, as Varra is waiting for the City of Thornton to decide if they will support storage reservoirs at the site. Varra owns dedicated water shares to account for exposed groundwater.

The Durham site was inspected by Rob Zuber of DRMS on September 1, 2022, and two operator representatives were also present: Garrett Varra and Brad Janes. The weather was hot and clear, and the ground was dry.

The reclamation cost estimate for the required surety for the site has not yet been updated. This will be done in the near future, and (if necessary) the Division will increase the Financial Warranty for this permit via a Surety Increase action.

The entrance sign contained the necessary information. Boundary markers are in place around most of the site. These include fences on three sides and the Cache la Poudre River on the north side. An exception is the northern part of the east boundary where there is no fence or other marker.

Berms were seen around the pit and process areas for safety compliance (generally four to six feet high). No berms were seen for flood protection along the river. At the low point where a breach happened in the flood of 2013 (per Mr. Janes), the road is very low, and does not act as a levee or berm. Also in this area, near Tract D, the remnant of a sill, which failed in the 2013 flood, is visible. A representative of Weld County, Diana Aungst, was contacted, and she indicated that the County has no issues with this site in the context of floodplain management.

Significant areas of ponded water include the silt pond in Tract D, which has been filled considerably, and the clean water pond near the entrance (Tract B). No water was seen in the old silt pond (east of Tract D), but this structure is filled with riparian vegetation.

Old reclamation on pit slopes is well established with grasses and trees. In particular, slopes near the southeast corner of the site have very good vegetation.

Fuel storage that was seen onsite was protected with secondary containment.

A large topsoil pile can be seen near the east end of Tract A. It is located on an old site for natural gas production. It is approximately 20 feet high, and the footprint is at least half an acre. Due to the location of this pile, there is little chance that the resource will be lost to erosion, however stabilization with a temporary cover crop is highly recommended.

Weeds were seen on site, including tamarisk at several locations, Russian olive near the east end of the site, and knapweed along the river bank. These weeds must be controlled per the approved weed control plan and Rule 3.1.10(6).

Other than weeds, no problems were seen. There is no evidence that the site is causing any offsite impacts.

PHOTOGRAPHS



East end of pit with soil pile in background



Revegetated slopes near the southeast corner of the pit



East end of site – permit boundary is marked by fence



Road along north side with Cache la Poudre River on left



Processing stockpiles along the river, east of the pond in Tract C



Tract C - old silt pond



Low point along river where breach occurred in 2013



Tract D – silt pond nearly full



Fresh water pond and process area

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>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>Y</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>Y</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>PB</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>Y</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>NA</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

Inspection Contact Address

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