




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: Witherbee Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-2009-070	MINERAL: Gravel and borrow in construction	COUNTY: Yuma
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	INSPECTOR(S): Brock Bowles	INSP. DATE: May 18, 2022	INSP. TIME: 12:00
OPERATOR: Yuma County	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Tom Andersen	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: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None	
WEATHER: Clear	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: June 9, 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). Tom Andersen and Mark Sievers of Yuma County (operator) were present for the inspection. The Witherbee Pit is located 18 miles southeast of Holyoke. The site is an active 112c operation with 80 acres permitted and the post-mining land use is wildlife. This inspection was carried out as a part of the Division's routine monitoring inspection program. At the time of the inspection it was warm, partly cloudy and the ground was dry.

The operator requested this inspection to evaluate the progress of the revegetation at the site.

The vegetation was planted two years ago and is not as dense as the surrounding area. The Witherbee Pit is a clay pit which is inherently difficult to get vegetation to grow and it is still early in the growing season. The southeast corner of the pit had very little vegetation and it appears that this corner of the pit had some water pooled killing the dryland species in the seed mix. This area may need to be broadcast seeded again.

The area was dominated by last year's standing dead kochia stalks, which is not unusual for this stage of reclamation. There is a good chance that kochia may be the dominate species this year as well. The good news is that there are many perennial and desirable species starting to sprout below the kochia. Perennials are slow growing and take a few years to get established. As the perennials become more established over the next couple of years they will start to outcompete the kochia. Some of the species noted growing at the site were western wheatgrass, Lewis flax, alfalfa and sunflower. Some cottonwood trees were growing in the northeast corner of the pit bottom.

Some rills were noted on the reclaimed slopes. This is not an uncommon situation. The vegetation is not established yet and fresh topsoil is easily eroded. As the vegetation becomes more established, it will control the erosion better. The topsoil will also become less fluffy and more compacted, which also resists erosion. The rills should be monitored over the next couple of seasons. If they get worse, repairs will need to be made. At this point, repairs may do more damage than good. Topsoil will not be lost because it will collect in the pit bottom.

The site looks as expected for being a clay pit after two growing seasons. The Division suggests to continue monitoring the rills and vegetation for another year or so.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1- View of the pit facing northwest

Inspection Contact Address

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