




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: West Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1983-130	MINERAL: Sand and gravel	COUNTY: Elbert
INSPECTION TYPE: Surety Release Inspection	WEATHER: Clear	INSP. DATE: November 2, 2022	INSP. TIME: 10:00
OPERATOR: Elbert County	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Jason Kohring	TYPE OF OPERATION: 110c - Construction Limited Impact	
REASON FOR INSPECTION: Surety Related	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: None	BOND AMOUNT: \$0.00	
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None	
INSPECTOR(S): Amy Eschberger	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: November 10, 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>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>Y</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>Y</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>N</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>N</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>Y</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 was a surety release inspection of the West Pit (Permit No. M-1983-130) conducted by Amy Eschberger of the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) in response to a Full Release Request (Revision No. SL-2) that was filed with our office on September 12, 2022. No comments or objections on SL-2 were received during the public comment period that closed on September 27, 2022. The operator was represented by Jason Kohring during the inspection. The site is located approximately 18.5 miles south of Simla, CO in Elbert County. The site can be accessed from the east off of Co Rd 137. **Photos 1-8** taken during the inspection are included with this report.

This is a 110c operation permitted for 9 acres to mine sand and gravel for use in county road construction and maintenance (see enclosed Google Earth image of site). The site is situated on a gravel deposit between drainages that flow south/southeast to Little Horse Creek when carrying water. Mined material was temporarily stockpiled on the pit floor, then hauled off site as needed. No material processing occurred on site. Working faces were maintained at a 3H:1V or flatter slope gradient during mining. Salvaged topsoil was stored above the pit walls for use in reclamation.

The approved post-mining land use for the site is rangeland. The reclamation plan calls for grading all disturbed slopes to gradients of 3H:1V or flatter, replacing topsoil at a minimum depth of 6 inches, and revegetating the site with a rangeland grass mixture. The Division approved Technical Revision No. 1 (TR-1) in 1995 to allow for a stock water pond to remain at the bottom of the pit for reclamation, as requested by the landowner.

It should be noted, the Division denied a Full Release request (SL-1) that was submitted for the site in April of 2019, because the reclamation vegetation had not yet fully established across the site. In the inspection report associated with SL-1 (dated May 20, 2019), the Division stated the operator had just seeded and hydro-mulched the disturbed area in late 2018, and that another two or more growing seasons may be needed before the site was ready for release.

During the current inspection, the Division observed all pit slopes have been graded to the approved 3H:1V or flatter slope gradient, and the disturbed area had a good establishment of grasses. No noxious weeds were observed. The reclaimed slopes appeared to be stable with only minor erosion rilling observed along the northern reclaimed pit wall. No significant erosion issues were identified. While the approved reclamation plan allows for a stock water pond to remain in the pit, the pit floor was dry during the inspection. A very small gravel stockpile remains at the southern edge of the pit floor. According to the operator, the landowner asked that this material remain for continued road maintenance on the property. Given the small size of the stockpile, the Division sees no conflict with leaving this material. Furthermore, the landowner Bob Thurston was notified of the release request, and did not submit any comments or objections.

After conducting this inspection, the Division determined the site has been reclaimed in accordance with the approved reclamation plan and approved SL-2 on November 7, 2022. However, per Rule 4.17.2(5), the Division is required to wait 30 days from the approval notice to allow for appeal of the Division's decision. If no appeals are received within this period (by December 7, 2022), the Division will issue the final decision on the release request in writing and any applicable warranties will be returned to the operator.

This concludes the report.

Any questions or comments regarding this inspection report should be forwarded to Amy Eschberger at the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203, via telephone at 303-866-3567, ext. 8129, or via email at amy.eschberger@state.co.us.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1. View looking west across reclaimed southern pit wall, showing slopes graded to 3H:1V or flatter with a good grass cover.



Photo 2. View looking east across reclaimed southern pit wall, showing slopes graded to 3H:1V or flatter with a good grass cover.



Photo 3. View looking north across reclaimed pit, showing slopes graded to 3H:1V or flatter with a good grass cover. Note small gravel pile (at right) left on pit floor for landowner use.



Photo 4. View looking north across reclaimed western pit wall, showing slopes graded to 3H:1V or flatter with a good grass cover.



Photo 5. View looking south across reclaimed area west of pit.



Photo 6. View looking southeast across reclaimed eastern pit wall, showing slopes graded to 3H:1V or flatter with a good grass cover.



Photo 7. View looking southwest across reclaimed pit, showing slopes graded to 3H:1V or flatter with a good grass cover. Note small gravel pile (at center, right) left on pit floor for landowner use.



Photo 8. View looking west across reclaimed pit, showing slopes graded to 3H:1V or flatter with a good grass cover.

Inspection Contact Address

Jason Kohring
Elbert County
215 Comanche St.
Kiowa, CO 80117

Encl: Google Earth image of site

CC: Bailey Short, Elbert County
Michael Cunningham, DRMS

M-1983-130 / West Pit / Elbert County (110c)

Red Outline = 9.0 acres = Approved Permit Area (location approximated based on permit maps)
(Image data from 4/2020)

