

# 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:		MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:	MINERAL:	COUNTY:
Allison Gravel Pit		M-2001-010	Gravel	Elbert
INSPECTION TYPE:		WEATHER:	INSP. DATE:	INSP. TIME:
Monitoring		Clear	November 2, 2022	11:15
OPERATOR:		<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b>	TYPE OF OPERATION:	
Elbert County		Jason Kohring	112c - Construction Regular Operation	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b>		BOND CALCULATION TYPE:	BOND AMOUNT:	
Normal I&E Program		None	\$0.00	
DATE OF COMPLAINT:		POST INSP. CONTACTS:	JOINT INSP. AGENCY:	
NA		None	None	
INSPECTOR(S):	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:		SIGNATURE DATE:	
Amy Eschberger		Clary Exchanger	November 15, 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 Y
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS <u>Y</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN Y	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP <u>Y</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE <u>N</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION Y	(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 normal monitoring inspection of the Allison Gravel Pit (Permit No. M-2001-010) conducted by Amy Eschberger of the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division). The operator was represented by Jason Kohring during the inspection. The site is located approximately 3 miles south of Matheson, CO in Elbert County. The main access to the site is from the west off of Co Rd 149. The affected lands are now owned by Tex and Linda Aduddell and Danni Hankins. The operator submitted an updated lease agreement for the site on July 20, 2020. **Photos 1-13** taken during the inspection are included with this report.

This is a 112c operation permitted for 80 acres (see enclosed Google Earth image of site) to mine sand and gravel for use in county road construction and maintenance. This is an intermittent operation that is active for less than 180 days per year. The approved mining plan includes a series of six mining phases (A-F) which will be mined generally from west to east (see enclosed mining plan map). The operation is mining through the northern face of a gently sloping gravel terrace. Salvaged topsoil will be stored along the perimeter of the active pit until needed for reclamation. Per the Division's approval of Technical Revision No. 2 (TR-2) on February 19, 2013, the operation is authorized to disturb a maximum of 40 acres at any time. This amount includes any reclaimed lands that have not yet been released from the permit. No processing of mined material will occur on site. While the maximum mining depth was not specified in the approved permit, it was stated that no groundwater would be exposed by the operation. A 50 foot setback will be maintained from the property fence that runs along the eastern permit boundary (during mine phase F).

Two natural drainages cross the permit area, oriented in an approximate north-south direction. These drainages only carry water during big storm events, during which, they flow northward toward Big Sandy Creek. Mine phase A is located west of these drainages; mine phases B, C, and D are located between the two drainages; and mine phases E and F are located east of the easternmost drainage. The operation will mine through the upper reaches of these drainages. The Division's approval of Technical Revision No. 4 (TR-4) on April 15, 2015 authorized the operator to construct a simple drainage structure downgradient (and northeast) of the current pit area. The drainage design includes removal of two feet of dirt to keep a 10-to-1 drop, and installation of a concrete block with a layer of 5-12 inches of riprap on the outflow side. An earthen berm will be constructed along both sides of the drainage to help retain sediment-laden water on the pit side of the concrete block. This drainage structure will be monitored and any sediment cleaned out on a regular basis. The operator completed installation of this structure in 2016.

The approved post-mining land use for the site is rangeland. The operation will conduct reclamation concurrently with mining, during which, any previously disturbed areas that will not be redisturbed will be reclaimed as the operation moves into the next mining phase. The approved reclamation plan includes grading all disturbed slopes to a 2H:1V or flatter gradient, replacing any remaining overburden and approximately 4-6 inches of topsoil, then seeding the site with a rangeland grass mixture consisting of sideoats grama, little bluestem, western wheatgrass, blue grama, and switchgrass. While the approved reclamation plan states that all slopes will be graded to 2H:1V or flatter, the approved mining plan map states that slopes will be graded to 3H:1V or flatter. In the reclamation performed at the site thus far, the operator has worked to create final slope gradients of 3H:1V or flatter. The Division agrees that leaving 3H:1V or flatter slopes is more appropriate for a post-mining land use of rangeland, and will also help protect slopes from erosion, especially during the revegetation period. No permanent stormwater control structures will remain. All roads constructed within the permit area will be reclaimed.

A permit sign is posted at the site entrance off of Co Rd 149. The corners of the permit boundary are marked with wooden stakes. The mine was not active during the inspection. However, according to the operator, this site is active every year in accordance with its intermittent status. The active pit disturbance is located in mine

phases B, C, and D (between the two drainages). The operation has excavated approximately 50 feet deep into the side of the terrace, with the tallest pit walls along the eastern and southern edges of the pit. The pit walls are being maintained at a slope gradient of 3H:1V or flatter. A small section of the eastern pit wall had some erosion rilling, but overall, the pit walls appeared to be stable with no significant erosion issues observed. The southwestern portion of the pit has been reclaimed, with slopes graded to 3H:1V or flatter and a good vegetative cover. A few material stockpiles are stored on the pit floor. Recycled asphalt is also temporarily stored on the pit floor in accordance with Technical Revision No. 5 (TR-5), approved on January 11, 2021. Per TR-5, up to 10,000 tons of recycled asphalt may be imported to the site to be mixed with gravel mined from the pit. This material will be used for maintaining county roads and will not be used for reclamation of the mine. It should be noted, the operator had previously stored the asphalt near the site entrance, north of the access road and immediately adjacent to the westernmost drainage. However, this area is no longer used for this purpose and appears to be in reclamation. Per TR-5, any asphalt materials will be stored on the pit floor, away from the natural drainages. Grasses and annual weeds (mainly Russian thistle) are volunteering into the active pit area. No noxious weed species were observed at the site.

The operator has stripped an area along the eastern edge of the current pit area in preparation of expanding the pit eastward. This new disturbance area does not appear to be captured on the most recent aerial imagery available in Google Earth, and is therefore approximated in the Division's estimated disturbance area (see enclosed Google Earth image of site). The salvaged topsoil from the stripped area is bermed along its eastern edge. Additional topsoil stockpiles are stored along the northern and southern edges of the current pit area. All topsoil stockpiles appeared to be stable; however, the newer eastern stockpile is not yet protected with a vegetative cover. In the approved permit, the operator committed to broadcast seeding any topsoil stockpiled for longer than one year with a perennial grass species. This will protect it from erosion and ensure the topsoil is in a usable condition for reclamation. The Division recommends the operator seed the eastern stockpile as soon as feasible.

Previously disturbed areas located west of the current pit disturbance (in mine phase A) have been reclaimed. This includes an old pit located south of the access road (estimated to cover 6.4 acres) and disturbed areas located north of the access road (estimated to cover 1.2 acres). The disturbed areas north of the access road included a previous staging area (adjacent to the road) and a downgradient portion of the westernmost drainage in which a stormwater control structure had been installed at one time. This structure was removed after the active mining operation proceeded east of the drainage. Most slopes in the reclaimed areas have been graded to 3H:1V or flatter (some portions of the reclaimed pit slopes are closer to 2H:1V) and the land has a well-established grass cover.

The Division estimates the operation has disturbed a total of 26.6 acres at the site, including 19 acres of active (unreclaimed) disturbance and 7.6 acres of reclaimed disturbance. This amount of disturbance is in compliance with the approved maximum disturbance at any time of 40 acres. Prior to disturbing more than 40 acres, the operator will need to either submit a Technical Revision to increase the maximum allowed disturbance or submit an Acreage Reduction to release reclaimed areas from the permit.

Per Rule 4.1.2(2), no financial warranty is required for this permit as the operator is a unit of municipal or county government. The operation appears to be following the approved mining and reclamation plans. No issues were observed.

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 <u>amy.eschberger@state.co.us</u>.

#### PERMIT #: M-2001-010 INSPECTOR'S INITIALS: AME INSPECTION DATE: November 2, 2022

## **PHOTOGRAPHS**



**Photo 1.** View looking west across active pit area. Note material stockpiles temporarily stored on pit floor, including recycled asphalt (per TR-5).



**Photo 2.** View looking northeast at northern pit wall, showing slopes maintained at 3H:1V or flatter gradient.



**Photo 3.** View looking south across eastern pit wall, showing slopes maintained at 3H:1V or flatter gradient.



**Photo 4.** View looking southeast across area immediately east of active pit stripped in preparation of mining. Note topsoil berm in background.



**Photo 5.** View looking southeast, showing closer view of topsoil stored along eastern edge of stripped area. This stockpile needs to be seeded to protect it from erosion.



**Photo 6.** View looking east across reclaimed southwestern portion of active pit, showing slopes graded to 3H:1V or flatter with a good vegetative cover.



**Photo 7.** View looking north across reclaimed southwestern portion of active pit, showing slopes graded to 3H:1V or flatter with a good vegetative cover.



**Photo 8.** View looking northwest across reclaimed southwestern portion of active pit, showing slopes graded to 3H:1V with a good vegetative cover.



Photo 9. View looking west across reclaimed pit (in mine phase A) located west of active pit.



Photo 10. View looking south across reclaimed pit (in mine phase A) located west of active pit.



Photo 11. View looking southwest across reclaimed pit (in mine phase A) located west of active pit.



**Photo 12.** View looking north at northwestern portion of active pit (on other side of access road), showing slopes maintained at 3H:1V or flatter gradient. Note large topsoil stockpile (indicated) stored at northern edge of pit.



**Photo 13.** View looking north/northwest at area north of access road (indicated) previously used for temporary storage of recycled asphalt. This area is no longer used for this purpose and is in reclamation.

## **Inspection Contact Address**

Jason Kohring Elbert County P.O. Box 116 Kiowa, CO 80117

- Encl: Google Earth image of site Mining Plan Map
- CC: Bailey Short, Elbert County Michael Cunningham, DRMS

# M-2001-010 / Allison Gravel Pit / Elbert County (112c)

Red Outline = 80 acres = Approved Permit Area (location approximated based on permit maps) Purple Outline = 19 acres = Approximate Disturbed Area (based on 11/2/2022 inspection) Green Outline = 7.6 acres = Approximate Reclaimed Areas (Image data from 4/2020)







