



## COLORADO

Division of Reclamation,  
Mining and Safety


Department of Natural Resources

### 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.

<b>MINE NAME:</b> Brownstone Quarry	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1997-065	<b>MINERAL:</b> Dimension stone	<b>COUNTY:</b> Larimer
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>WEATHER:</b> Clear	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> April 27, 2023	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 09:30
<b>OPERATOR:</b> LJS, LLC	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Justyn Hamilton	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 112c - Construction Regular Operation	

<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Normal I&E Program	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b>	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$270,010.00
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> None	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None
<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Patrick Lennberg	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> May 12, 2023

**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: Markers

**PROBLEM:** The affected area boundary markers are missing or incorrectly placed. This is a problem for failure to maintain boundary markers around the affected area as required by Section 3.1.12(2) of the rule.

**CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:** The operator shall conduct a survey and replace the boundary markers in the correct location(s). The operator shall provide proof to the Division that this has been done by the corrective action date.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE:** 7/11/23

### **OBSERVATIONS**

This was a routine monitoring inspection of the Brownstone Quarry (Permit No. M-1997-065) conducted by Patrick Lennberg of the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division/DRMS). The site was previously inspected by the Division on February 25, 2016 as part of the Succession of Operator Application, SO2, that transferred the permit from Stone Wholesale Inc. to LJS, LLC. Justyn Hamilton, representative of LJS, LLC the Operator, accompanied me during the inspection. The weather was clear.

The Brownstone Quarry permit is located in Larimer County approximately 2.8 miles northwest of Laporte, CO off of US 287. The permit is located on land owned by LJS, LLC which is the current Permittee. The approved permit is a 112c operation for 66.2 acres. The approved post mining land use is pastureland. A mine sign was observed at the entrance to the mine as required by Rule 3.1.12.

The site was active at the time of inspection with processing occurring in the central part of the permit area south of the canal. The Operator stated they are gradually shifting operations at the site from mining product to processing imported material. The imported material is brought in via truck from locations outside the state and cut and processed using the wire saw and other equipment at the site. Once processed the material is sold and then transported offsite. Mining is still occurring at the site but not at the historic rate or volume. Mining is occurring in areas located north of the canal. The primary pit is 30-40 feet deep with near vertical highwalls. Overburden for reclaiming the pit has been stockpiled to the northwest. Another cut located in the far northwestern portion of the site, a peninsula, is approximately 400 feet long and 80 feet wide. This area is in the process of being reclaimed. Another 4 acre location on top of the hill is in the process of being reclaimed with approximately half of the area being graded to match the surrounding topography. The Operator inquired about changing the approved reclamation seed mix to better match the native vegetation. The Division stated the seed mix can be changed through a Technical Revision. Additionally, the Division recommended the Operator contact the local Soil Conservation Commission to get recommendations on a suitable seed mixture for the area. In the far northeastern portion of the site in an old mining disturbance that is primarily used for storage purposes.

The Division requested to inspect some of the permit boundary markers however there were no markers to inspect. Failure to maintain boundary markers around the affected area pursuant to Rule 3.1.12(2) is being cited as problem within this report. A review of Google Earth aerial imagery by the Division indicates all mining appears to be located within the approved permit boundary.

The Operator also indicated that they would like to remove the house, located in the southern portion of the permit, from the permit. The Division explained the steps for requesting an Acreage Release Request.

The financial warranty was recalculated as part of this inspection and there will be an increase. A copy of the Division's estimate will be provided to the Permittee/Operator for review under a separate cover letter. Once the surety increase is issued by the Division, the Operator will have 60 days to provide the additional financial warranty.

Photographs taken during the inspection are attached.

Please contact Patrick Lennberg (303)866-3567 ext. 8114 or email at [patrick.lennberg@state.co.us](mailto:patrick.lennberg@state.co.us) if you have any questions regarding this report.

**Inspection Contact Address**

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ec: Justyn Hamilton, LJS, LLC, [justyn.hamilton@gmail.com](mailto:justyn.hamilton@gmail.com)

## PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: Mine sign at entrance

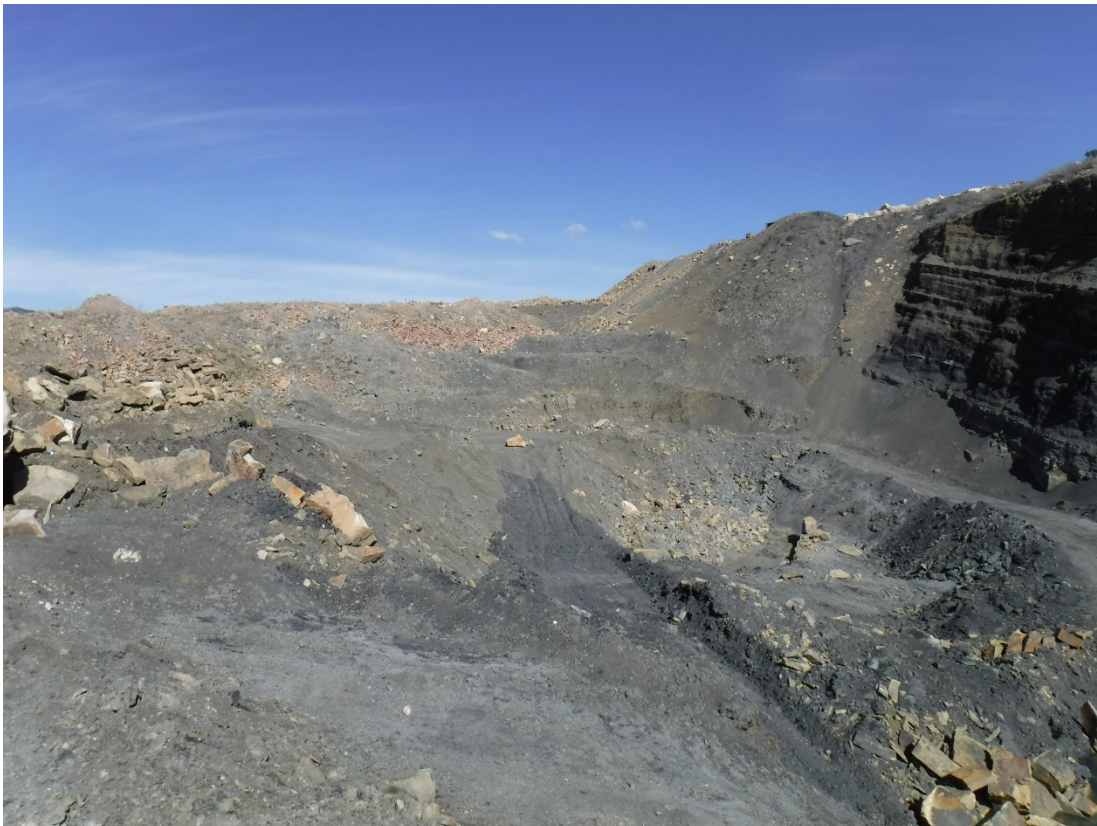


Photo 2: Staged and processed and to be processed material



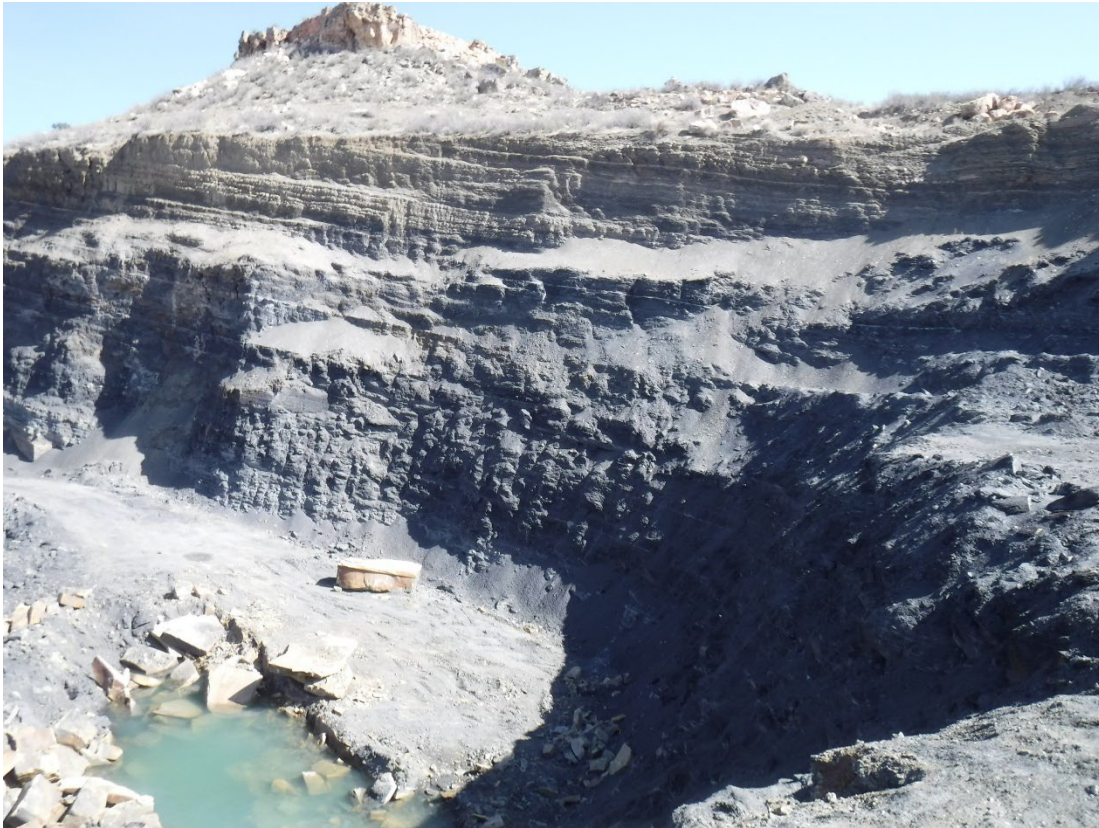


**Photo 3:** Wire saw building and other material processing buildings



**Photo 4:** Overburden stockpile of material adjacent to pit





**Photo 5:** Primary pit area, water at bottom from strong rain storms overnight prior to inspection

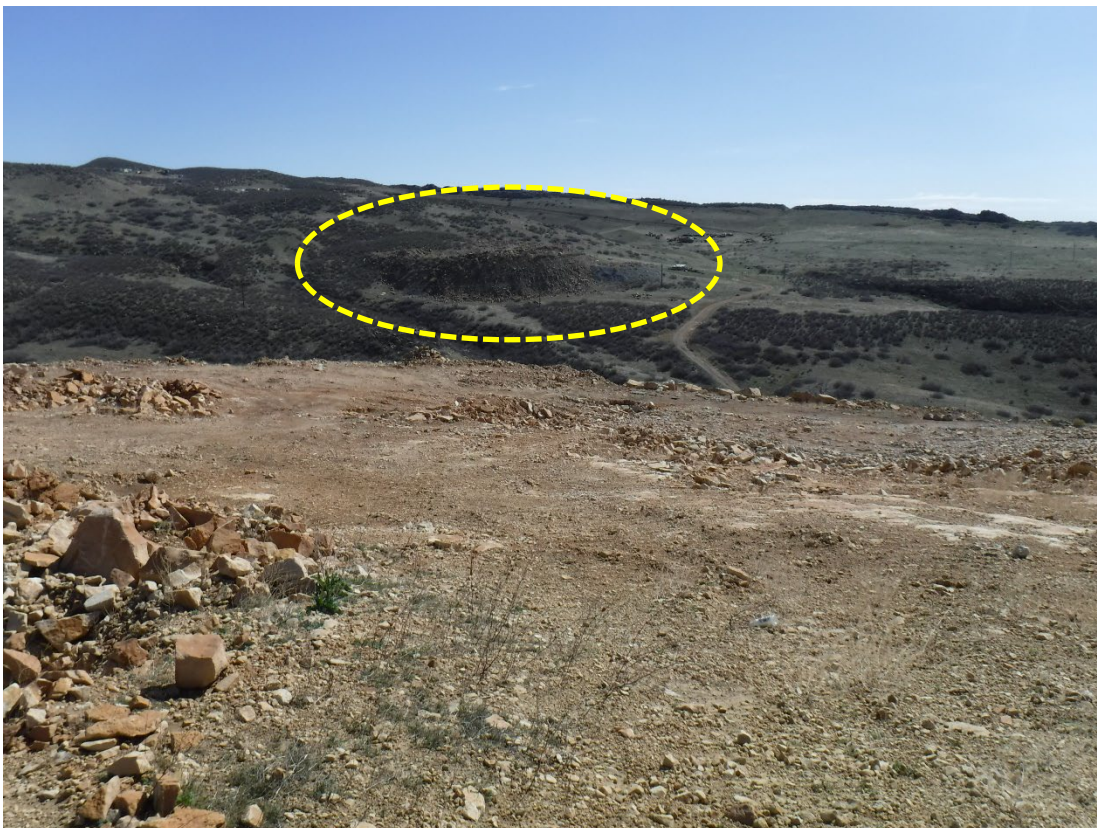


**Photo 6:** Looking southeast along the pit axis from the overburden stockpile area





**Photo 7:** Looking south towards the material processing and laydown area



**Photo 8:** Graded former mining area located on top of hill adjacent to main pit area, looking northeast, former mining area and now storage area circled in yellow





**Photo 9:** Graded former mining area located on top of hill looking south



**Photo 10:** Mined out, peninsula, area





**Photo 11:** Mined out, peninsula, area looking south



**Photo 12:** Site overview







### 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>N</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- <u>N</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>Y</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>N</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>Y</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>N</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>N</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>PB</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>N</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>Y</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