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## Diehl Borrow Pit M-2018-054 Monitoring Inspection Report

1 message

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**Gagnon - DNR, Nikie** <nikie.gagnon@state.co.us>

Wed, Jun 14, 2023 at 1:18 PM

To: mgothard@sema.inc

Hi Mitsy

Attached is the monitoring inspection report for the Diehl Borrow Pit, Permit No. M2018-054. If you have any questions about the report or the permit, feel free to contact me.

Kind regards,

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**Nikie Gagnon**  
Environmental Protection Specialist



**COLORADO**  
Division of Reclamation,  
Mining and Safety  
Department of Natural Resources

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**INSP-REPORT\_M2018054\_Diehl Borrow Pit\_20230519.pdf**

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**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><br>Diehl Borrow Pit               | <b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b><br>M-2018-054   | <b>MINERAL:</b><br>Borrow material for                               | <b>COUNTY:</b><br>Larimer   |
| <b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b><br>Monitoring               | <b>WEATHER:</b> Cloudy and cool  | <b>INSP. DATE:</b><br>May 19, 2023                                   | <b>INSP. TIME:</b><br>10:30 |
| <b>OPERATOR:</b><br>SEMA Construction, Inc.         | <b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b><br>Mitsy Gothard   | <b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b><br>111 - Construction by Government Agency |                             |
| <b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b><br>Normal I&E Program | <b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b><br>Complete Bond   | <b>BOND AMOUNT:</b><br>\$88,112.00                                   |                             |
| <b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b><br>NA                     | <b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b><br>None  | <b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b><br>None                                   |                             |
| <b>INSPECTOR(S):</b><br>Nikie Gagnon                | <b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b><br> | <b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b><br>June 14, 2023                              |                             |

**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>Y</u>        |
| (HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>Y</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>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>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 was a normal monitoring inspection of the Diehl Borrow Pit conducted by Nikie Gagnon of the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division). Misty Gothard representing the SEMA Construction (Operator), accompanied the Division. This inspection was carried out as a part of the Division's routine monitoring inspection program. The site is located approximately 8.5 miles north of Wellington, in Larimer County. The site is located along the frontage road, adjacent to I-25. A mine sign was posted at the entrance and the site is surrounded by fencing.

The Diehl Borrow Pit is permitted for 26.95 acres. Mining of borrow material for a roadway project was completed in 2020 and the site is undergoing reclamation. Mining was conducted in two areas, north and south of an ephemeral drainage that bisects the site. The ephemeral drainage was dry during this inspection. Slopes have been graded to 3H:1V across the entire site.

### **Reclamation Success/Revegetation:**

The south mining area was retopsoiled and seeded in the fall of 2019. Native grasses are establishing uniformly across most of this area. A former haul road is still evident in the center of the south mining area. This road needs to be reworked to loosen the soil and reseeded. Additionally, vegetation in the area around the haul road is patchy and sparse. A few patches of annual weeds were noted in the south mining area, primarily near the entrance, but in general the native grasses appear to be outcompeting the weeds.

The north mining area was retopsoiled and seeded in the summer of 2020. Large patches of annual weeds, cheatgrass, kochia and some thistle, were noted in the north area. Patches of grass are sprouting in the former pit area and the slope along the frontage road is well vegetated to control erosion. In general, the annual weeds are outcompeting the native grasses in the north area, however, sprouts of grass were noted throughout and with proper weed control, the grasses will continue to fill in.

The Division recommends that the Operator review the approved reclamation plan, reclaim the haul road in the south area, continue to monitor revegetation success across the entire site and reseed and mulch areas as necessary. Additionally, the Operator will need to keep up with weed management and erosion control at the site until disturbed areas are stabilized with the desired vegetation.

### **Access Roads:**

There are two entrances to the site along the frontage road used to access the north and south mining areas. The approved reclamation plan in Technical Revision 1 indicates these entrances will be reclaimed. Prior to seeking a release, the Operator will need to complete final reclamation of the entrances, which includes, removing gravel, replacing topsoil, and revegetating.

### **Hydrologic Balance:**

The south mining pit was dry during this inspection. A small amount of stormwater was noted in the pit in the north mining area. This area received a lot of rain over the past week, and it appeared that stormwater water is infiltrating quickly across the site.

The Division holds a \$88,112.00 corporate surety for the site. The financial warranty was reviewed as a part of the inspection and the Division has determined the bond is adequate.

**PHOTOGRAPHS**



Photo 1. Overview of the south pit area from the mine entrance.



Photo 2. Closer view of the vegetation in the south pit area, looking south.





Photo 3. Looking north across the south mining area.



Photo 4. Closer view of native grasses establishing on the northern edge of the south mining area.





Photo 5. Former haul road in the center of the south mining area. Annual weeds noted in this area.



Photo 6. Patchy vegetation on the south end, adjacent to the haul road in the south mining area.





Photo 7. Undisturbed ephemeral drainage between the south and north mining areas.



Photo 8. Looking north across the north mining area. Native grass is sprouting here.





Photo 9. Looking northeast across the former pit in the north mining area.



Photo 10. Closeup view of vegetation density in north mining area.





Photo 11. Looking at the western edge of the north mining area. Dense patches of annual weeds observed here. Vegetation has established on the hillside and controlling erosion.



Photo 12. Large patches of annual weeds were observed in the north mining area.



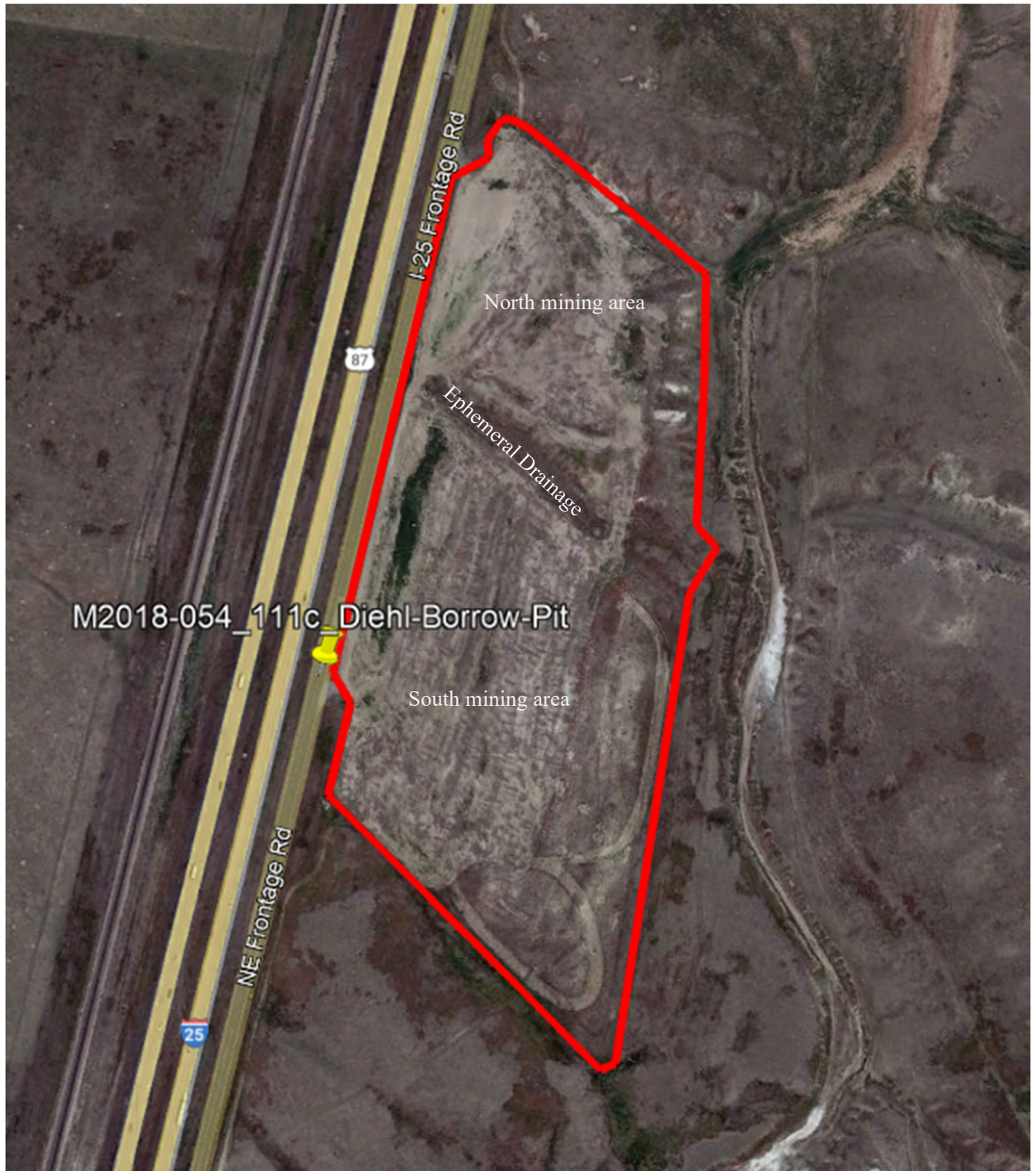


Photo 13. Google Earth image of the site, June 2023.



Any questions or comments regarding this inspection report should be forwarded to Nikie Gagnon at the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203, via telephone at 303-866-3567, ext. 8126, or via email at [nikie.gagnon@state.co.us](mailto:nikie.gagnon@state.co.us).

**Inspection Contact Address**

Mitsy Gothard  
SEMA Construction, Inc.  
7353 S Eagle St  
Centennial, CO 80112

CC: Amy Eschberger, DRMS