




**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> Meeker Pit	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1976-038	<b>MINERAL:</b> Sand and gravel	<b>COUNTY:</b> Rio Blanco
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Surety Release Inspection	<b>WEATHER:</b> Clear	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> May 31, 2023	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 08:30
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Meeker Sand & Gravel, Inc.	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Katie Conrado	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 112c - Construction Regular Operation	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Priority	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> None	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$113,352.46	
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> DRMS	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None	
<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Amy Yeldell Todd Jesse	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> June 16, 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>Y</u>	(FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY----- <u>Y</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>N</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>Y</u>	(BG) BACKFILL & GRADING----- <u>Y</u>	(EX) EXPLOSIVES----- <u>NA</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>N</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>NA</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 in response to the request for Acreage Reduction (AR-2) submitted to the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division), on May 31, 2023. The Meeker Pit is a 112c permitted site located off of County Road 4, approximately four miles south of Meeker, Colorado in Rio Blanco County. The permitted area is 61.69 acres, of which nearly all has been affected by mining to date. The Division holds \$113,352 in financial warranty. Amy Yeldell and Todd Jesse of the Division conducted the inspection. Katie Conrado of Meeker Sand & Gravel, Inc. represented the operator and was present for the inspection.

Prior to conducting the field inspection Division staff met with Ms. Conrado to discuss upcoming revisions and clarify Rule requirements. Recently Technical Revision (TR-4) was withdrawn. Rather than only updating the current mine and reclamation plan maps the Operator has elected to submit an amendment application and add additional acreage. The amendment shall at a minimum address the inspection problems identified in the Division's November 2, 2022 report. The amendment application is anticipated to be submitted by July 1, 2023.

The Division only inspected the areas that pertained to the acreage reduction, the entire permit area was not inspected.

Along the east side of the permit boundary on either side of the permit entrance is unaffected lands requesting release. The unaffected lands makes up 2.35 acres. Division staff verified that this land has not been affected by mining and appears to be in its original state. A few sparse weeds were observed, but none were state listed noxious weeds. Vegetation density, cover and overall species composition is similar to other adjacent unaffected lands outside of the permit boundary.

The other area inspected is 12.31 acres located along the southern permit boundary. This area has previously been mined and now is reclaimed. All slopes have been graded, overall the site is nearly flat. Topsoil was reapplied and the area was revegetated. The majority of the reclaimed lands has a variety of perennial grasses with some shrubs and forbs beginning to establish. There were some weeds such as Cheatgrass and a few one off Hounds tongue and Musk Thistle. Weeds were not considered to be negatively impacting reclamation success nor were they at a higher density than other unaffected lands. There were a few bare or sparse areas but they were less than 10% of the overall area considered. In general overall cover, density and species composition is sufficient.

Based on this inspection it is determined that the Operator has successfully complied with the requirements of the Act, Rules and Regulations, and the approved Reclamation Plan, and that the requested 14.48 acre portion of the permit area is ready to be released from any further reclamation responsibility. The comment period for AR-2 expires on June 23, 2023 and the revision has a decision date of August 7, 2023. A formal notice of decision will be sent under a separate cover.

Responses to this inspection report should be directed to: Amy Yeldell at the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, Rm 215, 1001 E 62nd Ave, Denver Co 80216. Direct contact can be made by phone at 303-866-3567 Ext 8183 or via email at [amy.yeldell@state.co.us](mailto:amy.yeldell@state.co.us)

### **Inspection Contact Address**

Katie Conrado  
Meeker Sand & Gravel, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1550  
Meeker, CO 81641

Enclosure: Five Photos

EC:  
Travis Marshall, Senior EPS, Grand Junction DRMS  
Todd Jesse

### PHOTOGRAPHS







Photo Two: Southeast undisturbed area



Photo Three: South mined and reclaimed area



