




**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> Russell Ranch Pit	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-2006-008	<b>MINERAL:</b> Sand and gravel	<b>COUNTY:</b> Rio Blanco
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>WEATHER:</b> Cloudy	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> June 7, 2023	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 10:30
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Russell Ranch General Partnership dba WR Aggregates	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Steve Baker	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 110c - Construction Limited Impact	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Normal I&E Program	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> Complete Bond	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$47,400.00	
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> None	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None	
<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Amy Yeldell Todd Jesse	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> June 20, 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>Y</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>Y</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>Y</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>Y</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>Y</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>N</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>NA</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>Y</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>NA</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>NA</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>NA</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>Y</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>N</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>Y</u>	(OD) OFF-SITE DAMAGE----- <u>NA</u>	

Y = Inspected / N = Not inspected / NA = Not applicable to this operation / PB = Problem cited / PV = Possible violation cited

## **OBSERVATIONS**

This inspection was conducted as part of the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety's (Division) normal monitoring program. The Russell Ranch Pit is a 110c permitted that consists of 9.9 acres. The site is located in Rio Blanco County approximately three miles southeast of Meeker, Colorado and is accessed from CR 79. Amy Yeldell and Todd Jesse of the Division conducted the inspection. Ben Rogers and Steve Bake, the Operator.

### **Acid And Toxic Materials:**

Two fuel tanks are stored near the scale. A clay lined earthen berm provides secondary containment (Photo One). No other hazardous or toxic materials were observed on site.

### **Backfilling and Grading:**

The pit is mined to an average depth of 25 feet with slopes at a 1.5H: 1V. The pit is mostly mined out, as slopes cannot be backfilled given the lack of overburden sourced from this site. Backfill material is not imported. The North and east highwalls currently are approximately 40 feet off of the permit boundary. The west side highwall abuts to the Strout-Amick Pit (M-1981-275) and the majority of the south highwall has been graded to a 5H: 1V and daylighted out to the access road below. This graded area is approximately 100 yds. long by 100 feet deep (Photos Two and Three).

### **Explosives:**

Explosives area not used in conjunction with this mining operation.

### **Financial Warranty:**

The Division currently requires a financial warranty amount of \$47,392.21 for this site. The bond was last recalculated with SI-1 in 2016. In an effort to ensure the Financial Warranty adequately reflects the actual current cost of fulfilling the requirements of the approved reclamation plan the Division will be updating the reclamation cost estimate. If the current bond is found to be insufficient the Division will send a Notice of Surety Increase under a separate cover.

### **Hydrologic Balance:**

There is no exposed ground water. This operation is generally a bowl shape on top of a bluff. No water was observed discharging off site.

### **Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan:**

Processed stockpiles area located throughout the pit floor, stockpiles are stable. Overall the site appeared to be in compliance with the approved Mine Plan and Rule 6.3.3.

### **Other:**

Discussed future permitting actions, a conversion to an 112c is anticipated.

There is a small excavation southwest of the permit boundary. That is a pit used only by the landowner on the property (Photo Four).

### **Right of Entry:**

Division staff verified that Russell Ranch South 80, LLC remains the landowner of all affected lands and therefore is in compliance with Rule 6.3.7 by maintaining its Legal Right of Entry.

**Reclamation Success:**

The post mine land use for this pit is Pastureland. At this time final reclamation has not taken place

**Revegetation:**

Seeding of the regarded and topsoiled southern bank has not yet occurred. Seeding of the 0.7 ac is scheduled for fall of 2023. No other revegetation areas were observed.

**Support Facilities On-site:**

A crusher is located in the center of the pit. It was down for repairs at the time of the inspection (Photo Five). No washing, cement or asphalt production occurs at this site.

Scale and scale house are located on the southeast side of the pit (Photo Six).

**Signs and Markers:**

A mine sign was posted at the entrance to the mine site as required by Rule 3.1.12(1). The information depicted was slightly smudged and should be repaired/replaced. (Photo Seven).

**Topsoil:**

Topsoil depth varies greatly at this site from 18-24" in some spots to nearly none in others. Per the Reclamation Plan a minimum of 6" of topsoil must be replaced prior to revegetation.

Topsoil has been applied to the graded southern bank. Area is approximately 100 yds. long by 100 feet deep, (0.7 acres).

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No problems or violations were noted during this inspection.

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

**Inspection Contact Address**

Steve Baker  
Russell Ranch General Partnership dba WR Aggregates  
1240 Rio Blanco County Road 8  
Meeker, CO 81641

Enclosure

EC:

Travis Marshall, Senior EPS, Grand Junction DRMS

Todd Jesse, DRMS

**PHOTOGRAPHS**



Photo One: Two fuel tanks located within secondary containment.



Photo Two: Highwall overview









Photo Five: Pit overview



Photo Six: Scale and Scale house in SE corner of the pit



