


**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.

MINE NAME: Patty's Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1998-103	MINERAL: Sand and gravel	COUNTY: Elbert
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	WEATHER: Clear	INSP. DATE: June 15, 2023	INSP. TIME: 09:40
OPERATOR: Town of Limon	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE(S): Greg Tacha and Ed Grimes	TYPE OF OPERATION: 112c - Construction Regular Operation	

REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: None	BOND AMOUNT: \$0.00
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None
INSPECTOR(S): Joel Renfro Amy Eschberger	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: July 17, 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: Signs & Markers

PROBLEM: The current mine identification sign posted at the entrance of the mine site is weathered and the permit number is no longer readable. The sign also does not include a statement that the reclamation permit for the operation has been issued by the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board (CMLRB). This is a problem for failure to meet all requirements of a mine identification sign per Rule 3.1.12(1).

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: The operator shall, at the entrance of the mine site post a sign, which shall be clearly visible from the access road, with a minimum size equaling one hundred and eighty-seven (187) square inches, such as eleven (11) inches in height and seventeen (17) inches in width, with appropriate font size, with the following: the name of the operator, the operation name, a statement that a reclamation permit for the operation has been issued by the CMLRB, and the permit number. The operator shall submit photo documentation that a proper sign has been posted by the corrective action due date.

CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE: August 16, 2023

OBSERVATIONS

The Patty's Pit site was inspected by Joel Renfro and Amy Eschberger with the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division/DRMS) as part of the Division's routine monitoring program on June 15, 2023. This site was previously inspected by the Division on September 5, 2018. Greg Tacha and Ed Grimes with Town of Limon were present during the inspection. This site is located approximately 5 miles southwest of Limon, CO. The site is accessed from the south off of Hwy 24. The approved post-mining land use is rangeland. Photos 1-9 taken during the inspection are included with this report.

Patty's Pit is a 112c operation permitted for 97.51 total acres. This operation converted from a 110c permit to a 112c permit in November 2018. The mining operation is split into 3 phases. The approved mining plan indicates the phase 1 pit will cover 19.16 acres, the phase 2 pit will cover 15.62 acres, and the phase 3 pit will cover 13.21 acres, for a total pit disturbance of approximately 48 acres. Additional disturbances will occur outside of the pit areas in association with topsoil stockpiles and haul roads. Disturbance that had occurred under the 110c permit is mostly included in phase 1. At the time of the inspection, the most recent mining activities had occurred in the boundary area of phases 1 and 3. The majority of the phase 1 disturbance is in reclamation. The Division estimates approximately 12 acres have been disturbed at the site thus far, including approximately 10 acres in phase 1 (to the west) and approximately 2 acres in phase 3 (to the east).

Disturbance at the site includes a larger previously mined pit (in phase 1) and more recent excavation areas along its eastern edge and in phase 3. The active excavation area is located at the southeastern edge of the total disturbance area. This pit is approximately 1 acre in size and 5-8 feet deep with 3H:1V slopes. There is a topsoil stockpile south of the pit and a product stockpile in the center of the pit. The larger pit is approximately 10-15 feet deep with 3H:1V slopes. There are topsoil stockpiles north of this pit and a small product stockpile remaining in the south of the pit.

There was no mining actively occurring at the time of inspection; however, product is occasionally hauled off site according to the operator. The Division observed ponded water in low-lying areas throughout the site, including on the pit floors. This region did experience significant storm events in the days leading up to the inspection. The ponded water did not appear to be exposed groundwater or water that has been standing for a long period of time. The operator should be advised, the Division of Water Resources (DWR) requires that operators ensure water is not retained on site for more than 72 hours unless a substitute water supply plan or augmentation plan approved by water court is obtained. If the operator must pump water out of the pits in order to meet this requirement, a discharge permit may be required from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE).

Vegetation throughout the site consisted primarily of native grasses, yucca, and cactus in undisturbed areas. The Division estimates approximately 5-6 acres of the phase 1 disturbance has been graded, retopsoiled, and seeded for reclamation. According to the operator, seeding in this area occurred sometime before 2016. The reclaimed area appeared to be stable, did not have any noxious weeds, and the grass species was fairly diverse. The unreclaimed area was comprised mostly of kochia on top of the pit slopes and downy brome (cheatgrass) along the pit slopes. Vegetation across the pit floor in the unreclaimed area was either sparse or consisted primarily of kochia and downy brome. The operator should continue to monitor these weeds and implement the approved weed management plan as appropriate, in accordance with Rule 3.1.10(6). Additionally, any disturbed lands that will not be re-disturbed by the operation need to be seeded as soon as practicable.

The mine identification sign located at the site entrance has been weathered over time and the permit number is no longer readable. Also, the sign does not include all information required by Rule 3.1.12(1). This is cited as a problem in the report (see page 1). The operator will need to submit photo documentation that a proper sign has been posted by the corrective action due date.

This concludes the report.

Any questions or comments regarding this inspection report should be forwarded to Joel Renfro at the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203, via telephone at (303) 866-3567 ext. 8147, or email at joel.renfro@state.co.us.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1. Patty's Pit mine sign. Permit number has been weathered over and the sign does not include the operation name or a statement that the reclamation permit for the operation has been issued by the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board.



Photo 2. Topsoil stockpile stored along southern edge of active pit, looking east.



Photo 3. Product stockpile stored in active pit, looking east.



Photo 4. Product stockpile stored at south edge of larger pit, looking west.



Photo 5. Southern edge of larger pit, looking west. The area had experienced significant storm events in the days leading up to the inspection, as evidenced by the ponded water observed throughout the site.



Photo 6. Eastern edge of larger pit, looking north. Pit slopes in this area have been graded to 3H:1V. However, this area has not yet been retopsoiled and seeded.



Photo 7. Portion of larger pit in reclamation, looking west.



Photo 8. Northern permit boundary delineated with fencing, looking toward north east corner.



Photo 9. Northern permit boundary delineated with fencing, looking west.

GENERAL INSPECTION TOPICS

The following list identifies the environmental and permit parameters inspected and gives a categorical evaluation of each

(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>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---- <u>Y</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>PB</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>Y</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>Y</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>N</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>Y</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>N</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>N</u>	(OD) OFF-SITE DAMAGE----- <u>Y</u>	

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

Inspection Contact Address

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