



STATE OF  
COLORADO

Ridley - DNR, Hunter <hunter.ridley@state.co.us>

---

## Gardner Pit Inspection Report, M-1979-034

1 message

---

Ridley - DNR, Hunter <hunter.ridley@state.co.us>

Wed, Jul 19, 2023 at 11:36  
AM

To: Dan <generaloperatingco@hotmail.com>

Dan Redmond,

Please find attached the Division's report from the inspection of the Gardner Gravel Pit, M-1979-034, on June 27, 2023. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Kind regards,  
Hunter Ridley  
Environmental Protection Specialist



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

P 720.868.7757 | F 303.832.8106

Physical: 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203

Mailing: DRMS Room 215, 1001 E 62nd Ave, Denver, CO 80216

[hunter.ridley@state.co.us](mailto:hunter.ridley@state.co.us) | <https://drms.colorado.gov>



---


**Insp\_Report\_6\_27\_Gardner.pdf**  
4162K



**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> Gardner Gravel Pit	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1979-034	<b>MINERAL:</b> Sand and gravel	<b>COUNTY:</b> Routt
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>WEATHER:</b> Clear	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> June 27, 2023	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 14:30
<b>OPERATOR:</b> General Operating Company	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Dan Redmond	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 112c - Construction Regular Operation	

<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Normal I&E Program	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> Partial Bond	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$130,932.00
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> None	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None
<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Hunter Ridley	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> July 19, 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:** Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan

**PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION:** Problem: Failure to follow approved reclamation plan, or current reclamation plan needs to be updated and clarified pursuant to C.R.S. 34-32.5-116 (1). The operator must follow approved reclamation plan or provide sufficient information to describe or identify how the operator intends to conduct reclamation.

**CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:** The operator shall submit a Technical Revision, with the required \$216 revision fee, to update and clarify the current approved reclamation plan to reflect existing and proposed activities by the corrective action date.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE:** 10/12/23

**INSPECTION TOPIC:** Sediment Control

**PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION:** Problem: Rock check dams which were previously installed in 2015 in response to a problem citation are no longer functioning properly. This is a problem at this time for failure to protect the affected land from erosion pursuant to C.R.S. 34-32.5-116 (4)(j). Rock check dams must be rebuilt properly to ensure full functionality of the dams and protection from erosion and sedimentation.

**CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:** The Operator shall submit to the Division evidence that rock check dams have been rebuilt by the corrective action due date.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE:** 10/12/23

## **OBSERVATIONS**

This inspection was conducted as part of the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) normal monitoring program. Gardner Gravel Pit is a 112c permitted site that includes a total of 40 permitted acres. Approximately 20 acres are currently disturbed. It is located approximately 4 miles northeast of Phippsburg, CO and is accessed from Routt County Road 14 (Photo 1). Dan Redmond represented General Operating Company and accompanied Hunter Ridley of the Division on the inspection.

There is a mine identification sign posted at the bottom of the access road to the pit (Photo 2). This sign was updated via a problem citation from the last inspection dated 3/31/2023. The mine sign has now been appropriately amended. A wire fence delineates the permit boundary. At the entrance of the pit there is a small office and load scale. Two fuel tanks are stored in a secondary containment in the upper processing area (Photo 10).

The pit is divided into three sections. Two flat levels (upper and lower), which are used for processing and storing material (Photos 6 and 7), and the excavated hillside to the north (Photos 4, 5, and 9). Material is pushed off of the hillside and collected below via a road running northwest along the toe of the hillside (Photos 4 and 5). A shaker plant is on site to process material (Photo 7). All stockpiles are stable (Photos 6 and 7). The site was active at the time of inspection.

There is one topsoil pile located in the northeastern corner of the processing area, behind the fuel tanks (Photo 11). Other topsoil piles are stored on top of the highwall (Photo 9). Volunteer vegetation is noted to have been growing on various overburden stockpiles around the site (Photos 4 and 8). The operator stated that weeds are sprayed twice a season. The operator is encouraged to review their weed management plan and continually treat noxious weeds as needed. The schedule in the weed management plan is a timing guideline however noxious weeds should be treated whenever the opportunity is available and appropriate.

Rock check dams were installed along the site's access road in 2015 after an inspection problem was cited for failure to control sediment and erosion. The large rocks previously placed here to help slow erosion are now absent from the structures (Photos 3 and 12). **This is cited as a problem** for failure to protect affected land against erosion. To ensure full functionality, please rebuild these rock check dams to their appropriate design and submit evidence to the Division that this was completed by the corrective action due date.

During review of the permit file and following a phone call with the Operator, it was determined that a reclamation plan and reclamation plan map which satisfies the requirements of Rules 6.3.4 and 6.3.5 has not been submitted to the Division. **This is cited as a problem.** Please submit a revised reclamation plan and map to the Division by the corrective action due date. The revised plan and map should clarify where all topsoil piles are located within the permit boundary. The Reclamation Plan narrative should be updated to be more specific in its plans for topsoil storage and distribution as it applies to the upper and lower areas of the mine. Additionally, the Operator shall conduct a survey of the existing topsoil stockpiles to determine the current volume of topsoil that has been salvaged.

The Division currently holds a financial warranty amount of \$130,932.00 for this site. The bond was last updated post inspection in March of 2023. The Division has found the current bond to be adequate.

Photographs taken during the inspection have been included below. Responses to this inspection report should be directed to: Hunter Ridley at the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, 1313 Sherman St., Room 215, Denver, CO 80203. Direct contact can be made by phone at 720-868-7757 or via email at [hunter.ridley@state.co.us](mailto:hunter.ridley@state.co.us)

## **PHOTOGRAPHS**



**Photo 1: View northeast of the pit highwall, taken from County Road 14.**



**Photo 2: Mine sign posted at the entrance to the pit's access road, recently updated.**





**Photo 3: Check dams are in place along the access road, but in need of maintenance.**



**Photo 4: View north of the existing highwall and truck path up to the highwall. Volunteer vegetation is seen growing on the face of material which has been stripped of topsoil.**





**Photo 5: Additional view of the active highwall and lower processing area.**



**Photo 6: View west of the lower processing area of the pit where material stockpiles are stored.**





**Photo 7: Material stockpiles and shaker plant equipment is located on the upper processing area of the pit.**



**Photo 8: View north of unexcavated hillside in the upper processing area.**





**Photo 9: View north of the eastern edge of the active highwall. This upper processing area also serves as additional machinery storage. Topsoil is stored atop the active highwall to the northwest.**



**Photo 10: Fuel stored in secondary containment.**





**Figure 11: View south of an existing topsoil pile located on the upper processing area.**



**Photo 12: Check dams have also been installed on the eastern edge of the permit to control runoff, in need of maintenance.**





**Photo 13: A berm is in place along the bottom of the access road which leads outside of the pit boundary.**



### **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>Y</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>Y</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>PB</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>Y</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>N</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>N</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>PB</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

#### **Inspection Contact Address**

Dan Redmond  
General Operating Company  
P.O. Box 223  
Yampa, CO 80483

CC: Michael Cunningham, DRMS