




**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> East Sand Canyon Mine	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-2023-021	<b>MINERAL:</b> Sand and gravel and material for construc	<b>COUNTY:</b> Baca
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Preoperation Inspection	<b>WEATHER:</b> Clear	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> July 19, 2023	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 11:30
<b>OPERATOR:</b> W.F. Ratliff	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Dude Ratliff	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 110c - Construction Limited Impact	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Preoperation Inspection	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> None	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$0.00	
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> None	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None	
<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Brock Bowles	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> July 21, 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>N</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>N</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>N</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>N</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>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 pre-operational inspection conducted Brock Bowles of the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division). Dude Ratliff (Operator) was present for the inspection. The weather during the inspection was sunny and warm with a light breeze. The ground was dry.

The application for the East Sand Canyon Mine was received on June 20, 2023 and deemed complete on June 27, 2023. The decision date is set for July 27, 2023.

The notice sign required by 1.6.2(1)(b) was in place at the mine entrance (photo 1) and was facing CR G. The mine site is accessed from an existing ranch road off CR G. A gate was in place through the fence along CR G. The 4 permit boundary corners were clearly marked with t-posts (photo 2). The position of the posts were consistent with GPS coordinates given in the application.

The site is situated on top of a small knoll/hill that gently slopes to the southeast (photo 3). The hill was covered with vegetation and no disturbance, mining or large erosion features were seen. The current land use is rangeland which is consistent with the surrounding landscape. The proposed post mining land use is also rangeland.

The vegetation of the site was consistent with the description in the application. The site was dominated by native grasses including blue grama, needle and thread, sand dropseed, and sideoats grama. Several shrub species were also noted including sagebrush, yucca, cholla and prickly pear cactus. No noxious weeds were noted on the proposed area.

The site did not contain any water drainages, stock dams or water features. The proposed site is higher than the surrounding landscape and does not appear that it will interfere with any surface water drainages (photo 4).

Immediately to the west of the proposed permit area is the former Gravel Pit #23, M-1985-100. This site was terminated in 2007. The site contains a reclaimed pit area and a stone stockpile (photo 5). Mr. Ratliff was informed that this area cannot be mined as part of the permitted East Sand Canyon operation until it is permitted at a future date. He was also informed that material from the #23 pit can be used for his private ranching/farming operation as long as the material does not leave the contiguous piece of land.

The reclamation cost estimate for the site was calculated as part of the application package. The reclamation cost estimate proposed by the operator for the site was \$17,525.48. The Division is in agreement with this value.



## PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1 – Mining application notification sign facing CR G



Photo 2 – Southeast corner post facing northwest





Photo 3 – Looking south from the northern boundary.



Photo 4 – Northwest corner facing south.





Photo 5 – Former Gravel Pit #23 immediately west of East Sand Canyon Pit

**Inspection Contact Address**

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