



STATE OF
COLORADO

Zuber - DNR, Rob <rob.zuber@state.co.us>

Inspection report for Varra Resources Project 110

1 message

Zuber - DNR, Rob <rob.zuber@state.co.us>
To: Garrett Varra <gvarra@raptormaterialsllc.com>

Thu, Jul 27, 2023 at 11:21 AM

Hi, Garrett -

Please see my report from the inspection of permit M-1984-036 last week.

Let me know if you have questions or comments. FYI, I will be unavailable next week.

Rob

Rob Zuber, P.E.
Environmental Protection Specialist
Active Mines Regulatory Program



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

I am working remotely and can be reached by cell at 720.601.2276.

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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: Varra Resources Project 110 (formerly Dakolios Pit No. 1)	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1984-036	MINERAL: Sand and gravel and	COUNTY: Weld
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	WEATHER: Cloudy	INSP. DATE: July 20, 2023	INSP. TIME: 08:15
OPERATOR: Varra Companies, Inc.	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Garrett Varra	TYPE OF OPERATION: 112c - Construction Regular Operation	

REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE:	BOND AMOUNT: \$17,000.00
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None
INSPECTOR(S): Robert Zuber, P.E.	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: July 27, 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: The current mine plan needs to be updated and clarified pursuant to C.R.S. 34-32.5-112 (1)(c)(VI). The operator must provide sufficient information to describe or identify how the operator intends to conduct the operation. In particular, the maps for the permit must clearly show the existing permit area.

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

CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE: 9/29/23

OBSERVATIONS

The Varra Resources Project 110 (formerly Dakolios Pit No. 1) is located north of the Town of Firestone and southeast of the intersection of Weld County Road 13 and St. Vrain Creek in Weld County, Colorado. This site was inspected by Rob Zuber with the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division/DRMS) as part of the routine monitoring program. The site was previously inspected by the Division on September 20, 2018. Garrett Varra with Varra Companies, Inc. was present during the inspection.

The site is divided into three main areas:

- The northwest section of the site includes Areas 1 and 2. Area 1 contains the scale house and the main entrance. Area 2 contains a 16.5-acre reservoir created by the installation of an SEO-approved clay liner. The reservoir (excluding the vegetated perimeter) was released from the permit area with AR-01 on 2018.
- The northeast section of the site (Area 3) contains the recycling operation (approved with county USR), product stockpiles and seep ditch. The post-mining land use for this area was changed to general agriculture in 2011 under AM-02. The Operator intends to continue general agricultural activities and concrete and asphalt recycling operations in the area after the site is released from the reclamation permit.
- The southeast portion of the site (Area 4) contains a 24.6-acre reservoir. The reservoir is sealed with an SEO-approved clay liner. The reservoir (excluding the vegetated perimeter) was released from the permit area with AR-01 on 2018.

The operator needs to clarify the current boundary area with a Technical Revision to update applicable maps. These maps need to show the remaining 36.37 acres, which is the official permit area at this time.

The mine permit sign was posted at the entrance gate, and the permit boundaries were well-defined in most areas. In some locations the boundary markers need to be improved.

The Division currently holds a financial warranty in the amount of \$17,000.00 for the cost to revegetate the buffer zone, inter-seed the perimeters of the reservoirs, and the cost of mobilization for the reclamation work by an independent contractor. This amount equals the reclamation cost estimate updated in 2018 by the Division. The task for re-vegetating the buffer zone has been completed, and the Division has determined that the current financial warranty is sufficient.

The vegetation cover was good in many areas, including (but not limited to) the storage yard and the buffer around Area 3.

The operator has been controlling weeds with mowing. Some areas still have problems, including the south end of the east pond (Area 4) where kochia is the dominating species. Near the recycling yard, Garret Varra pulled three thistle plants. Knapweed and tamarisk were seen next to St Vrain Creek.

Photographs taken during the inspection are attached and illustrate some of the conditions of the site.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Pond in Area 4 (southeast portion of site) – looking north from southeast corner



Area 4 (southeast portion of site) – kochia on south side of site



Equipment storage in Area 3 (northeast portion of site)



Stockpiles in Area 3 (northeast portion of site)



Vegetation buffer (left side of photo) next to Area 3

GENERAL INSPECTION TOPICS

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

(AR) RECORDS----- <u>Y</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>NA</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>NA</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>NA</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>Y</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>NA</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>Y</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>NA</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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CC: Michael Cunningham, DRMS