



STATE OF
COLORADO

Reilley - DNR, Robin <robin.reilley@state.co.us>

Re: Inspection SL2 Superior S&G

1 message

Reilley - DNR, Robin <robin.reilley@state.co.us>

Mon, Aug 7, 2023 at 3:22 PM

To: "Green, Brian" <BCGreen@auroragov.org>, Bbell@auroragov.org, Robin Reilley - DNR <robin.reilley@state.co.us>

Additionally, Please find the decision document associated with the SL2 permitting action.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you

Robin Reilley, M.S. GISP
Environmental Protection Specialist II



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

P 303.866.3567 ext 8105 |

F 303.832.8106

Physical Address: 1313 Sherman Street St., Suite 215, Denver, CO 80203

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

robin.reilley@state.co.us | <http://mining.state.co.us>

On Mon, Aug 7, 2023 at 2:32 PM Reilley - DNR, Robin <robin.reilley@state.co.us> wrote:

Good Afternoon Brian,

It was a pleasure to complete the SL2 inspection for the above mentioned site last week. DRMS is prepared to fully release the site. Please find the inspection report attached for your reference.

Robin Reilley, M.S. GISP
Environmental Protection Specialist II



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DecisionDoc_SuperiorSL2.pdf

174K



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: Superior S&G Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1979-189	MINERAL: Sand and gravel	COUNTY: Arapahoe
INSPECTION TYPE: Surety Release Inspection	WEATHER: Clear	INSP. DATE: 31 July, 2023	INSP. TIME: 12:45 p.m.
OPERATOR: City of Aurora	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Brian Green	TYPE OF OPERATION: 112c - Construction Regular Operation	
REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE:	BOND AMOUNT: \$0.00	
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None	
INSPECTOR(S): Robin Reilley, GISP	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: 7 August, 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>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>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>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

OBSERVATIONS

This was a site inspection of the Superior S& G Pit, Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (DRMS) permit number M-1979189 operated by the City of Aurora in Arapahos County. The site is located ¼ mile north of State Highway 30 on Piccadilly Rd.

The inspection was in response to a request for full bond release SL1 received by DRMS on 13 April 2023. The Division found the application complete on 24 April 2023. The site was previously inspected by the Division in May 2023 as part of the Division's routine monitoring program. The May 2023 inspection was associated with the SL1 permitting action, however, a nesting eagle prevented a full site visit. DRMS conducted a partial site inspection to assess vegetation diversity and establishment. As it was early in the season most of the seeded vegetation other than cool season species had not yet emerged. The SL1 was withdrawn until a full site inspection became possible. The release request was resubmitted as SL 2 on 28 July 2023. A decision by the Division is due 2 October 2023. Brian Green with the City of Aurora accompanied me on the inspection.

The permit identification sign required as per rule 3.1.12(1) located at the Quincy entrance was old, only displaying the permit number. As the site is scheduled for full release this does not pose a problem as once released, the sign will be removed.

This is a 65.2 acre 112c operation in Arapahoe County. This site was originally permitted by Superior Sand & Gravel Company. The permit was transferred to Rio Grande Company in 2004. Then in 2015 the permit was transferred to Aurora. In September of 2017 the operator decided to complete reclamation. The post mine land use approved for the site is primarily recreational centered on wetland/wildlife habitat creation.

A Reclamation Plan for the site, meeting the requirements of Rule 3.1.5(7) has been developed by the City of Aurora and approved by DRMS. In addition to meeting the requirements of the above Rule it was agreed in 2019 to leave certain areas steeper than 3H:1V ratio and to retain the well-established Cottonwood trees along pond and stream banks. The Division concurred with this approach. Also discussed was that some of Aurora's proposed revisions will be conceptual in nature and final configurations of features (wildlife viewing platforms), may not be exact. DRMS understands this and as long as the final site configuration is not significantly different than proposed, small variations are acceptable.

This 31 July inspection comprised a full inspection for the purpose of bond release. Vegetation observed throughout the site was confirmed to comprise a diverse mix of warm season grasses, perennials shrubs and the cool season species observed in May. Native grasses and warm season perennials had emerged substantially since May providing stable ground coverage. Few weeds were noted. Haul roads exhibited diverse native vegetation establishing. The spoil pile on the West Reclamation Area was well covered with barley and stable with no signs of erosion. Monarch Butterflies were observed on milkweed plants. Notable vegetation comprised evening star, western wheat grasses, sunflowers, bee plant and sand drop seed with willows and riparian vegetation (sedges and rushes) along pond edges. The vegetation establishment in July was notable when compared with May photos. Biodegradable erosion control blankets were present on most slopes along the pond banks.

The spoil pile height had been graded to a lower elevation and is covered with green and dried vegetation appears stable. An overburden stockpile located at the north east corner of the site had been gently sloped, vegetated and contained with a silt fence. The pile will remain as a permanent pile as is. Grading appears to have been conducted as per the permit. No concerning erosional features were observed on spoil piles or pond banks. Slopes are shallow exhibiting a 3H to 1H ratio. Murphy and Coal Creeks showed evidence of high flow from spring and summer rains.

The site appeared stable and reclamation appeared to follow the reclamation plan with diverse native and wetland vegetation establishing adequately. The eagle family was seen roosting and flying around the site. The young had fledged. Pelicans, avocet, blue heron, grebes and other waterfowl were observed at the time of inspection.

Photographs taken during the inspection are attached. As the permittee is the City of Aurora DRMS holds no surety.

No problems or violations were noted during this inspection. As a result of this inspection DRMS is prepared to fully release the site.

Please contact Robin Reilley (303)866-3567 ext. 8105 or email at robin.reilley@state.co.us with any questions regarding this report.

Inspection Contact Address

Brian Green
City of Aurora
15151 E. Alameda Parkway
Aurora, CO 80012

Enclosure:

cc: Jared Ebert, DRMS

PHOTOGRAPHS



*Photo 1: Mine site identification sign, Quincy St. entrance
at west end of site,*



Photo 2: East reclamation area pond exhibiting riparian vegetation.



Photo 3: Spoil pile exhibiting a cover of barley.



Photo 4: East reclamation area pond looking west.



Photo 5: Sloped and vegetated banks of west reclamation area looking west.



Photo 6: *Sloped and vegetated banks of west reclamation area looking east.*



Photo 6: *Confluence of Murphy Creek with Central Pond, exhibiting a depositional sandbar.*