

**STATE OF
COLORADO****Gagnon - DNR, Nikie** <nikie.gagnon@state.co.us>

Roberts Pit M2023-014 Pre-op inspection report

1 message

Gagnon - DNR, Nikie <nikie.gagnon@state.co.us>

Mon, Aug 21, 2023 at 1:56 PM

To: Marcy Brossman <ccadmin@rebeltec.net>, rbdistrict3@co.cheyenne.co.us

Hi Marcy.

Attached is the pre-operation inspection report for the Roberts Pit, Permit No. M-2023-014. The Division did not receive any comments on this application, other than the History Colorado letter I forwarded to you and the CPW letter you submitted with the application. I will complete my review and send any adequacy questions to you by the end of the week.

Kind regards,

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Nikie Gagnon
Environmental Protection Specialist**COLORADO**
Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety
Department of Natural Resources


P 303.866.3567 x8126 | C 720.527.1640 | F 303.832.8106
Physical: 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203
Mailing: DRMS Room 215, 1001 E 62nd Ave, Denver, CO 80216
nikie.gagnon@state.co.us | <https://www.drms.colorado.gov>

**Pre-Op Inspection Rpt_Roberts Pit_M2023014.pdf**
4036K



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: Roberts Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-2023-014	MINERAL: Sand and gravel	COUNTY: Cheyenne
INSPECTION TYPE: Preoperation Inspection	WEATHER: Clear	INSP. DATE: July 10, 2023	INSP. TIME: 11:00
OPERATOR: Cheyenne County	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Jim Brown	TYPE OF OPERATION: 112c - Construction Regular Operation	
REASON FOR INSPECTION: Preoperation Inspection	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: None	BOND AMOUNT: PF.Actual Surety	
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None	
INSPECTOR(S): Nikie Gagnon	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: August 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>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>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>Y</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>Y</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-operation inspection conducted at the Roberts Pit in response to a new 112c application. Nikie Gagnon with the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) conducted the inspection. Jim Brown, representing the Cheyenne County, accompanied the Division during the inspection. The weather was clear and warm and the site was dry.

The application for the Roberts Pit was received on April 26, 2023 and deemed complete on June 26, 2023. The end of the comment period was August 15, 2023. No public comments were received for this application. The decision date is set for September 24, 2023. The current site conditions were compared to the conditions presented in the application and, in the context of the mining and reclamation plan in the application, the site was inspected for any potential issues.

Mining Plan

The proposed permit area is 23.47 acres including a roadway access. The parcel is owned by Clifford Roberts. A signed legal-right-to enter granting access to Cheyenne County was included in the application package. The County plans to mine this site intermittently for road maintenance. Per C.R.S. 34-32.5-103(11)(b) the County states in the application that they do not intend to use this site for more than 180 days per year. Mining will begin near the southern middle of the mining site and move north at a rate of 1-2 acres per year.

Signs and Markers:

A notice sign required by 1.6.2(1)(b) was posted at the entrance to the site. The permit area was surveyed and boundary markers are installed around the perimeter.

Roads:

The mine site is approximately 9 miles northeast of the town of Arapahoe in Cheyenne County. The entrance is on the south side of County Road Z one mile west of County Road 57. A wire gate crosses the entrance and a two-track dirt access leads to the proposed mining area. The proposed mining plan calls for constructing a 30-foot-wide, 1,728 feet long access road to the mining area.

Structures

An electrical line owned by KC Electric Associate was observed at the mine entrance. The application includes a letter of agreement for this structure. An overhead electric transmission line owned by Tri-State Generation and Transmission was observed along the county road within 200 feet of the proposed permit area. A letter of agreement for this structure was included in the application. A barbed wire fence owned by the landowner runs within 200' of the northeastern side of the permit area. The application includes a letter of agreement for this structure.

Vegetation

The current land use is rangeland. Observations during this inspection are consistent with the application. The site is dominated by native short and mid prairie grasses, forbs, and shrubs – yucca, sagebrush, and prickly pear cactus. Sunflowers and kochia were noted in some areas.

Hydrology

Big Timber Creek, an ephemeral drainage, runs around the west, north and east sides of the proposed permit area. The creek substrate is fine sand but will not be mined. The creek was dry during this inspection; however, recent slumping and erosion of the side walls on the northern side of the creek were observed. Mr. Brown indicated the erosion was caused by recent heavy storms. On three sides of the permit area, a 90-foot buffer zone will be constructed between the affected mining area and the creek bed to prevent stormwater in the nearby creek from entering the pit area. The mining plan indicates the pit will be designed to gravity flow stormwater off site through the creek located around the perimeter.

No impoundments were noted on the property, and none are proposed. Groundwater is not expected to be encountered during mining. According to the application, maximum depth of the excavation will be 30 feet.

No financial warranty is required because the operator is a unit of county government.

Photographs taken during inspection are attached. Please contact Nikie Gagnon (303)866-3567 ext. 8126 or email at nikie.gagnon@state.co.us if you have any questions regarding this report.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: Looking south from the entrance. Two track road leads to mining area.



Photo 2: Powerline at the entrance to the site. Arrow points to posted notice sign.



Photo 3: Graded dirt crossing of Big Timber Creek. Proposed mining area in the background.



Photo 4: Looking northeast at Big Timber Creek from road crossing location. Ephemeral creek flows around proposed mining area. The creek bed will be unaffected by mining.



Photo 5: Looking northeast across proposed mining area.



Photo 6: Looking southwest across proposed mining area.



Photo 7: Looking south from the northeastern corner of the permit area.



Photo 8: Looking west along the northern permit boundary. A 90' buffer/berm is proposed along around the south side of the creek to protect the mining area from flooding from the creek.



Photo 9: Big Timber Creek from the northeastern permit boundary. Slumping and erosion is noted here. Arrow points to the permit boundary marker on the edge of the creek.



Photo 9: Overhead electric lines along the county road, outside the permit area.



Photo 10: Approximate permit boundary. Google earth imagery 04/2020,

Inspection Contact Address

Jim Brown
Cheyenne County
51 South 1st Street
Cheyenne Wells, CO 80810

Enclosure

CC: Marcy Brossman, Cheyenne County
Amy Eschberger, DRMS