




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: Lemoine Gravel Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1979-140	MINERAL: Sand and gravel	COUNTY: Delta
INSPECTION TYPE: Surety Release Inspection	WEATHER: Clear	INSP. DATE: October 4, 2023	INSP. TIME: 13:45
OPERATOR: Delta County	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Tim McCracken and others	TYPE OF OPERATION: 112c - Construction Regular Operation	
REASON FOR INSPECTION: Surety Release Requested	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: None	BOND AMOUNT: \$0.00	
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None	
INSPECTOR(S): Robert Zuber, P.E.	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: October 9, 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>NA</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>NA</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>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>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

OBSERVATIONS

The Lemoine Gravel Pit is a permitted 112c operation located approximately two miles east of Hotchkiss, Colorado, on State Highway 133. The approved post-mining land use for the Lemoine Gravel Pit is pastureland. The mine site has been returned to the final contours approved in the reclamation plan.

Technical Revision No. 2 (TR-02, approved in September 2022) revised the reclamation plan in three ways:

- Low spots in the pasture were to be filled with topsoil from another County-run location, and this area was to be graded.
- The seed mix was revised to include pasture species, namely alfalfa, orchard grass, and brome grass. Also, oats were to be used as a cover crop.
- Irrigation pipe was to be installed along the upper end of the pasture (the northwest side).

On October 4, 2023, Rob Zuber of the Division conducted an inspection related to Surety Release No. 2 (SL-02) for the Lemoine Gravel Pit (M-1979-140). Tim McCracken, Delta County Engineer, and three other County employees (John Allen, Tim Hunter, and Scott Sheetz) represented the operator. The weather during the inspection was partly cloudy and warm. Much of the site was muddy from irrigation.

The Mine Identification sign was posted at the entrance to the mine site, at the southwest corner of the permit area. The sign was posted in a clear location and contained the required information regarding the mine permit, the permittee, and the Division.

During the inspection, it appeared that all three of the tasks from TR-02 have been accomplished. There was no sign of low spots that would impede farming. The pasture area, which encompasses over 90 percent of the site, was well-covered with alfalfa and grasses. Irrigation pipes (10-inch PVC) were installed along the northwest side of the pasture, and all the pasture area was muddy. Per County staff, the installation of the irrigation system and the seeding were completed in the summer of 2023.

The grass and alfalfa in the pasture had been harvested, and the remaining vegetation was still short. Per County staff, the harvesting took place approximately a month before the inspection. In some areas, tall stands of grass or oats had not been harvested at the time of the inspection.

The northwestern portion of the permit is a reclaimed 3:1 slope extending from the original elevation of the site down to the reclaimed pasture. This slope was observed to be stable with no erosional features, and the vegetation cover appears to be much better than in 2022. A significant portion of the vegetation on this northwest slope is Russian thistle, which is not a listed noxious weed but is not a desirable species.

The Division had these additional observations:

- There were no rills or other erosion on the site.
- There were no off-site impacts observed at the site.
- The northeastern portion of the site was stable with vegetative cover over most of the area, although a small bare spot was seen.
- There was no evidence of knapweed, which was noted in the previous inspection by the Division in 2022.

At this time, from the observations made during the October 4, 2023 inspection, the Division can approve Delta County's request for full and final release of the 33.3 acres of the Lemoine Pit. The Division based this decision on the conditions at the mine site, including:

- Extensive vegetative cover over most of the site
- A lack of listed, noxious weeds
- The presence of an irrigation system.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Looking west with pasture in foreground and hillside with Russian thistle in middle of photo



South side of pasture with uncut grass



Middle of pasture with cut grass



Irrigation pipe on west side of pasture



Slope on west side with Russian thistle plants

Inspection Contact Address

Tim McCracken and others
Delta County
18830 G Road
Delta, CO 81416

CC: Michael Cunningham, DRMS