




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: Mekelburg Pit No 1	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1981-179	MINERAL: Sand and gravel	COUNTY: Yuma
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	WEATHER: Clear	INSP. DATE: August 31, 2023	INSP. TIME: 13:50
OPERATOR: Yuma County	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Tom Anderson	TYPE OF OPERATION: 112c - Construction Regular Operation	
REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: None	BOND AMOUNT: \$0.00	
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None	
INSPECTOR(S): Nikie Gagnon	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: October 12, 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>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>Y</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>Y</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>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 inspection was conducted as part of the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety's (Division or DRMS) routine monitoring program for permitted operations. Nikie Gagnon, with the Division, conducted the inspection. Tom Anderson, representing Yuma County (Operator) accompanied the Division during the inspection.

The Mekelburg Pit is located 20 miles north and 1 mile west of Yuma, CO. The site is a 112c operation permitted to affect 113 acres. Affected lands will be reclaimed to support an agriculture post-mining land use. At the time of the inspection, it was clear and warm, and the site was dry. The site was not active at the time of inspection and no equipment was on-site.

Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan:

The original permit application stated that mining would be conducted in 10-acre increments. In January 2018, the Division approved a revision to the mine plan (TR1) to allow the County to work three separate mining cuts simultaneously within the permit area. Two cuts are currently opened (Pit Area 1 and Pit Area 2), and a 3rd area could be opened north of the dry ephemeral creek that runs through the center of the permitted area. All mining activity is currently on the south side of the creek.

Pit Area 1 is on the south side of the permit area. This area was not currently being mined at the time of inspection, however there was evidence of recent mining activity. Mining is progressing to the east in a u-shaped excavation that daylights to the west. The active mining cut face is approximately 500 feet in length and approximately 20 feet high. The highwall along the east side of the pit is nearly vertical in the center and shallower on the sides. Slopes on the north and south sides of the pit, closer the entrance are graded to 3H:1V and vegetated. Stockpiles of mined material are stored in the bottom of the pit.

Pit Area 2 is in the center of the permit, below Pit Area 1 and south of the ephemeral creek. Pit Area 2 was opened first in the mining sequence and part of the original 1981 permitted area. Mining activity in this area also moved from west to east. No evidence of recent mining activity was observed during this inspection and Mr. Anderson confirmed the County had not mined Pit Area 2 in a while but indicated they occasionally take material from the stockpiles in the pit. The bottom of the pit is overgrown with annual weeds, sunflowers, and grasses. Young cottonwoods are growing along the base of the pit walls. Some of the slopes that surround the pit are graded to 3H:1V or shallower, however slopes on the north and south are steeper and water erosion below the vegetation line is cutting into the slope. Stockpiles of mined material are stored in the pit. According to the approved reclamation plan, once mining is complete in an area, the Operator will begin to replace overburden and topsoil to start the regeneration of plant material. The Division reminds the Operator that per Rule 3.1.5(4), all backfilling and grading shall be completed as soon as feasible after mining process, followed by topsoiling and seeding. The Operator shall establish reasonable timetables consistent with good mining and reclamation procedures.

During this inspection, Mr. Anderson informed the Division that the land to the north, encompassing the 3rd mining area is being sold and the County plans to seek a release of this area from the permit once a sale is complete. The Division viewed this area and noted it remains undisturbed.

Topsoil:

In Pit Area 1, the Division observed a vegetated topsoil berm along the west side of the permit area. The Division observed a vegetated u-shaped topsoil berm on the eastern boundary of Pit Area 2. The mine plan calls for seeding the topsoil with western wheatgrass to control erosion. All topsoil areas appeared stable with grasses during this inspection.

Hydrologic Balance:

No standing water was observed in either pit area during this inspection. Soil cracking indicating standing water was noted in front of the highwall in Pit Area 1. Mr. Anderson stated stormwater had collected in a low spot in the pit but they grade the pit floor occasionally to eliminate depressions that trap water. Mining has not disturbed the ephemeral drainage between Pit Area 2 and 3.

Signs and Markers:

A mine sign was posted in accordance with Rule 3.1.12(1) at the entrance to the pit and the boundaries are marked in the corners with metal posts painted red at the top.

Reclamation Plan:

The approved reclamation plan states that mined slopes will be graded to 3:1 final slope with minor terracing used control washing of the topsoil. Topsoil will be replaced at a rate of 5 to 8 inches on all disturbed sites. A mulch of hay or manure will be spread on the surface and worked into the soil to stabilize the surface. All disturbed areas will be hydro seeded or drill seeded using the approved seed mix, to ensure uniform coverage of vegetation. All roads off of CR 58 will be reclaimed once the pit is completed.

This concludes the Division's Inspection Report; a subset of photographs taken during the time of the inspection are included below. If you need additional information or have any questions, please contact me at Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203, by telephone at (303)866-3567 x8126, or by email at nikie.gagnon@state.co.us.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: Looking east into Pit Area 1. Stockpiled material is stored on the pit floor (circled). Evidence of recent mining activity along the highwall (red arrow)



Photo 2: Looking at an older mined slope on the south side of the pit. The slope graded to 3H:1V and vegetated with grass.



Photo 3: Area of cracked soil in the foreground, indication of past standing water near the highwall in Pit Area 1. Vegetated topsoil berm in the background marked with a red arrow.



Photo 4: Looking northeast across Pit Area 2. Young cottonwoods are growing at the base of the highwalls around the pit, grasses, sunflowers, and annual weeds are growing on the pit floor. Small stockpile of gravel stored in the pit (circled).



Photo 5: Looking east at Pit Area 2. No evidence of recent mining. Stockpiled material stored in the pit (circled).



Photo 6: Looking southeast from the entrance to Pit Area 2. Stockpiled material in the pit (circled) and slopes on the south sides show signs of erosion below vegetation layer (red arrow).



Photo 7: Slopes on the north side of Pit Area 2. Cottonwoods growing at the base of the slope.



Photo 8: Topsoil berm on the eastern side of Pit Area 2.



Photo 9: Ephemeral drainage that runs between Pit Area 2 and Pit Area 3.



Photo 10: Pit Area 3 currently for sale. This area remains undisturbed by mining.



Photo 11: Looking west across Pit Area 3 from eastern boundary.



Photo 12: Google Earth view of the permit area, imagery dated 09/2023. Red line indicates approximate permit boundary.

Inspection Contact Address

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Wray, CO 80758

CC: Amy Eschberger with DRMS