




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.

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| MINE NAME: Hillyer Pit | MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1982-011 | MINERAL: Sand and gravel | COUNTY: San Juan |
| INSPECTION TYPE: Surety Release Inspection | WEATHER: Clear | INSP. DATE: October 19, 2023 | INSP. TIME: 09:45 |
| OPERATOR: Jo Ann Vota | OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: None | TYPE OF OPERATION: 110c - Construction Limited Impact | |
| REASON FOR INSPECTION: Surety Release Requested | BOND CALCULATION TYPE: None | BOND AMOUNT: \$4,280.56 | |
| DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA | POST INSP. CONTACTS: None | JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None | |
| INSPECTOR(S): Lucas West | INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:  | SIGNATURE DATE: October 23, 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.

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| (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>Y</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>Y</u> | (FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>N</u> | (RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>N</u> |
| (SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>N</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>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 in response to the Operator's request for Full and Final Release of the entire permitted area by the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety's Active Mines Program. The Hillyer pit is listed as an active 110(c) operation that has had final reclamation completed for some time. The site is located just south of Silverton at approximately 9260 Feet in Elevation. The site is accessed from 10th street, and is adjacent to the Animas River. No operator representative was present during the inspection and no mining or reclamation related equipment was on site at the time of the inspection. The Division currently holds \$4,280.56 in Financial Warranty for the site. Four Photos accompany this report to illustrate the current site conditions.

The site consists of 7.5 acres that lies along the West banks of the Animas River. Mining was conducted by way of allowing the river to flow into the pit, depositing bedload before waters receded after the runoff. Material would then be removed from the pit and exported from the site. All areas associated with this activity have been backfilled and graded to blend with the existing flood plain. Photos One and Two show the main excavation areas that are backfilled, showing no signs of settling, slumping or erosion. The grading and reclamation work was so successful, that the disturbed areas are almost indiscernible from the surrounding flood plain. According to records kept by the Division, there was no topsoil present on site prior to mining, therefore none was salvaged for reclamation use. Most of the disturbed area consists of various sized gravel and cobble material with some vegetation having taken hold. Areas of native grasses and some riparian species were noted, examples of which can be seen in Photos Three and Four. Areas of riparian brush species including willows and tree saplings were also noted. The vegetative cover is as good as, or better than adjacent undisturbed lands. The banks of the Animas River appear to be behaving in a manner that is consistent with normal river morphology and no evidence of mining activity having an effect on that morphology was noted.

Based on the observations made during this inspection, the Division has determined the Operator has successfully completed the reclamation of the affected lands in accordance with the Act, Rules and Regulations as well as the approved Reclamation Plan. Therefore, it is the decision of the Division to **approve** the full and final release of the Hillyer Pit, Permit No. M-1982-011. Please see the attached SL-1 Approval Letter for more information.

All responses to this report should be directed to Lucas West at the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety's Active Mines Program at Room 215, 1001 E. 62nd Ave, Denver CO 80216. Direct contact can be made at the Division's Grand Junction Field Office, by phone at 303-866-3567 Ext. 8187 or by email at lucas.west@state.co.us.

PHOTOGRAPHS





Inspection Contact Address

None

Jo Ann Vota
315 N. Sunburst Ln
Durango, CO 81301

Enclosure: M-1981-011 SL-1 Approval Letter

CC: Travis Marshall, DRMS



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

October 23, 2023

Joann Vota
Jo Ann Vota
315 N. Sunburst Ln.
Durango, CO 81301

Re: Hillyer Pit - File No. M-1982-011
Jo Ann Vota
Surety Release Request (SL-1)
Full/Final Release

Dear Joann Vota:

On October 23, 2023 the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety concluded its review of the Surety Release Request application submitted to the Division on August 28, 2023, addressing the following:

The decision reached by the Division is: Approve.

I am pleased to inform you that the Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety elected to release Jo Ann Vota from further responsibility for the Hillyer Pit. This site is released in its entirety. You should advise the issuer of your bond of this release by copy of this letter. In accordance with Rule 4.17.2(5), the Division is required to wait thirty (30) days from this notice to allow for appeal of the Division's decision. Once this period closes, if no appeal is submitted the Division will issue the final decision on the release request in writing and the Performance Warranty and Financial Warrant(ies) on file will be returned in separate correspondence from the Division.

The Mined Land Reclamation Board and the Division staff wish to commend Jo Ann Vota for your reclamation efforts and the resulting success.

If you have any questions, please contact me by telephone at (303) 866-3567 x 8187, or by email at Lucas.west@state.co.us.

Sincerely,

Lucas J. West



Environmental Protection Specialist

M-GR-04