




## 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.

<b>MINE NAME:</b> Stephens Pit	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1978-146	<b>MINERAL:</b> Sand and gravel	<b>COUNTY:</b> Logan
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>WEATHER:</b> Clear	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> August 29, 2023	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 10:00
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Logan County	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Rob Kasper	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 112c - Construction Regular Operation	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Normal I&E Program	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> None	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> N/A	
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> None	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None	
<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Nikie Gagnon	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> October 20, 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>Y</u>	(FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY----- <u>N</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>N</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>N</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>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>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 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. Rob Kasper, representing Logan County (Operator) accompanied the Division during the inspection.

The Stephens Pit is located approximately 5 miles south and 6 miles east of Crook, CO on the west side of CR 93. The site is a 112c operation permitted to affect 19.70. Affected lands will be reclaimed to support a rangeland 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 observed on-site.

### **Gen. Compliance With Mine Plan:**

The observed disturbance area covers approximately 9.9 acres in the northern portion of the permit area. The east side of the excavated pit was the original 110c application permitted in 1978. The west and south areas were added to the permit area through a conversion in 1989. Approximately 9.8 acres south of the current disturbance area has not been mined and the land is currently planted in corn. The pit floor is well vegetated with grasses, sunflowers, and annual weeds. According to Mr. Kasper, the mine has not been used in a while. The slopes around the pit are not graded in accordance with the approved Reclamation Plan. The highwalls around the pit range in height from 5 to 30 feet with grades ranging from vertical to 3H:1V. As noted during the past two inspections (2016 and 2019), the Operator will likely need to backfill and repair the slopes to achieve the approved maximum reclamation slope of 3H:1V around the perimeter of the mined areas, since the highwalls are in close proximity to the permit boundary. The Operator stated they could mine the undisturbed area and would use material from the south side to backfill the slopes in the older pit, however a decision has not been made about future mining of this site.

### **Topsoil:**

The Division observed two vegetated and stable topsoil stockpiles located on the pit floor.

### **Reclamation Plan:**

The approved Reclamation Plan includes grading all slopes to a maximum gradient of 3H:1V, replacing 5-8 inches of topsoil, drill seeding with the recommended seed mixture, and mulching the site with 2 tons per acre of straw. The approved seed mixture includes the following species in pounds Pure Live Seed (PLS) per acre: side-oats grama (1.8), little bluestem (1.4), prairie sandreed (1.3), yellow sweetclover (0.9), and blue grama (0.6).

Based on review of previous inspection and annual reports, and observations made during this inspection, it appears that neither mining nor reclamation work has occurred recently at this site. The Division reminds Logan County that reclamation must be completed with all reasonable diligence within five (5) years from the date that mining activities ceased as required by C.R.S. 34-32.5-116(4)(q)(I) and Rule 3.1.3.

### **Access Road:**

This mine was last inspected on June 5, 2019. At that time, the County informed the Division that they lost access to the State Leased Land on the north side of the mine used for the original access road. The landowner granted Logan County access to the site through the agricultural fields south and east of the pit and, as of this inspection, the County is still using the road to the south to access the mine. The Division reminds the County that if mining starts up again at this site, they will need to submit an amendment application to the Division to widen and upgrade the road to handle truck traffic and add the acreage to the permit area.

### **Signs and Markers:**

A mine sign was posted along CR 93 at the entrance to the access road south and east of the mine. A fence runs along the east and north sides of the disturbance area. Wood posts marking the permit boundary were observed in the corners in compliance with Rule 3.1.12.

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](mailto:nikie.gagnon@state.co.us).

**PHOTOGRAPHS**



Photo 1: Looking southeast across the excavated pit from the northwestern boundary.



Photo 2: Looking north across the east side of the pit area.





Photo 3: Looking down the eastern boundary. Arrows indicate areas where slopes are steeper than 3H:1V.



Photo 4: Looking southwest at the highwall in the west side. Undisturbed area within the permit boundary is above the highwall in the background (red arrow).





Photo 5: Looking west at the partially graded slope in the west pit. Steeper slopes are on either side of the graded area (red arrows).



Photo 6: Volunteer cottonwood trees growing in the middle of the excavation.





Photo 7: Looking northwest at topsoil storage on the pit floor.



Photo 8: Looking west down the edge of the cornfield that splits the disturbed mining area on the right from the unmined area on the left.





Photo 9: Access road from CR93 leading to the mine, outside permit area.





Image 1: Red outline is the approximate permit boundary area. Arrows point to two-track access road to CR93 Google Earth image dated 9/2020.

**Inspection Contact Address**

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