




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: New Cache Agricultural Pond 1 | MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-2015-003 | MINERAL: Gravel | COUNTY: Weld |
| INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring | WEATHER: Clear | INSP. DATE: November 1, 2023 | INSP. TIME: 13:30 |
| OPERATOR: The New Cache La Poudre Irrigating Compar | OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Ethan Cozzens, Dale Trowbridge | TYPE OF OPERATION: 112c - Construction Regular Operation | |
| REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program | BOND CALCULATION TYPE: Complete | BOND AMOUNT: \$39,560.00 | |
| DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA | POST INSP. CONTACTS: None | JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None | |
| INSPECTOR(S): Hunter Ridley | INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:  | SIGNATURE DATE: November 6, 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>Y</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>N</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>N</u> | (RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>Y</u> |
| (ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>N</u> | (SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>Y</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

The New Cache Agricultural Pond 1, Permit No. M-2015-003, was inspected by Hunter Ridley with the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) as part of the Division's monitoring inspection program. Dale Trowbridge and Ethan Cozzens with The New Cache La Poudre Irrigating Company were present for the inspection. The New Cache Agricultural Pond 1 site is located approximately 10 miles east of Greeley, CO and is accessed via CR 60 1/2. The site is a 112c operation permitted for 16.2 acres with a post-mining land use of an agricultural pond.

An entrance sign was posted (Photo 1) and permit boundary markers in the form of a fence was observed as required by Rule 3.1.12. The larger fence was established to keep the public and animals out of the pond. The second, smaller fence seen in Photo 5 is the actual permit boundary line.

The site is permitted for 16.2 acres with 13.0 acres disturbed by the creation of a 9.13 acre agricultural pond (Photo 3). The construction of the pond and liner has been complete since 2016 and reseeding first occurred in 2016/2017. The only activities to have occurred since the Division's last inspection are attempts at seeding the remaining acres of disturbance at the site which are not taken up by the agricultural pond. The site has been in final reclamation for well over the five year time limit set under Rule 3.1.3. Therefore, it is important that the Operator shall with all reasonable diligence, work to reclaim the site to the conditions approved under the Reclamation Plan in a timely manner.

Reclamation grasses included in the approved mix such as blue grama and western wheatgrass were observed during the inspection. These species were in full coverage along the first ~2 foot, flat perimeter of the lined pond (Photos 2 and 4). As the slope increases, vegetative cover drops dramatically and weedy species such as Kochia and Russian thistle are present. The Operator seems to be following the approved noxious weed plan, as no noxious weed species were observed at the site during the inspection. The Operator stated that they had tried several seeding methods including broadcast seeding and hydro-mulching with little to no permanent success. Since the reservoir is lined, it is possible that the embankment around the liner was compacted during construction. Compaction prevents roots from permanently stabilizing and prevents water from percolating through as usual. Additionally, the site had very little topsoil to begin with which was re-spread over the site in reclamation. These two factors are potential causes for the unsuccessful establishment of vegetation on the embankment slopes. The following suggestions could aid in successful reclamation at the site:

- Disc harrowing to help increase the depth of the root zone
- Introducing a cover crop to help stabilize soils while native seeds establish

The Division encourages the Operator to attempt one or more of these suggestions at the site in order to complete reclamation in a timely manner. The Division does not recommend regrading of the slope, as this could reduce the integrity of the embankment. Ultimately however, full and final reclamation of the site is up to the responsibility of the Operator. If the above suggestions do not result in successful revegetation, the Division would encourage the Operator to reach out to a private consultant for advice on reclamation at the site. The Division will not release the site until revegetation meets all the requirements and reclamation standards outlined in Rule 3.

The Division currently holds a financial warranty amount of, \$39,560.00 for this site. In an effort to ensure the Financial Warranty adequately reflects the actual current cost of fulfilling the requirements of the approved reclamation plan, the Division has updated the reclamation cost estimate. The Division has found the current bond to be adequate for reclamation of the site.

Photographs taken during the inspection have been included below. Responses to this inspection report should be directed to: Hunter Ridley at the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, 1313 Sherman St., Room 215, Denver, CO 80203. Direct contact can be made by phone at 720-868-7757 or via email at hunter.ridley@state.co.us.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: Mine sign posted at the site entrance.



Photo 2: View east of the south facing slope of the agricultural pond.



Photo 3: View north of the completed agricultural pond.



Photo 4: View north of the east facing slope of the agricultural pond.



Photo 5: View east of the permit boundary fences.

Inspection Contact Address

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