



# COLORADO


Division of Reclamation,  
Mining and Safety

Department of Natural Resources

## 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> Pikeview Quarry	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1977-211	<b>MINERAL:</b> Limestone (general), granite gneiss and do	<b>COUNTY:</b> El Paso
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>WEATHER:</b> Clear	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> October 25, 2023	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 09:30
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Riverbend Industries Inc.	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Jerry Schnabel	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 112c - Construction Regular Operation	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Normal I&E Program	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b>	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$13,389,784.00	
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> None	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> U.S.Forest Service	
<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Timothy Cazier, P.E.	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> November 15, 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>Y</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>Y</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>Y</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>NA</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**

This inspection was conducted by Tim Cazier (DRMS) as part of the continuing planned monthly inspections to observe the backfill placement for the final reclamation of the Pikeview Quarry. Jerry Schnabel (representing the Permittee, Riverbend Industries) and Paul Kos (Stantec) were present for the inspection. Amy Titterington and Julie Spawn (USFS), and David Deitemeyer (Colorado Springs) were also onsite for the inspection.

The Pikeview Quarry is accessed from near the intersection of Centennial Blvd. and Vindicator Dr. north of Colorado Springs. The quarry is actively focused on final reclamation. The purpose of this inspection was to observe backfill placement and compaction effort. This included reviewing compaction testing records.

**Records:** Compaction testing records were reviewed back to September 18<sup>th</sup> when the new earthworks contractor (Dwire Construction) resumed fill placement. All test results reviewed in this period (September 18<sup>th</sup> to October 22<sup>nd</sup> – results from the day before and of the inspection had not yet been compiled) demonstrated at least 90 percent compaction in compliance with the approved specification.

**Backfilling and Grading:** Buttress backfill was being placed at about the 7,400 foot level (**Photo 1**). A D9 dozer was observed pushing material down from above the slide area (**Photo 2**) to construct an access route for near future scraper work. The contractor was also able to access the small hose sized boulder at the top of the south end of the slide. An excavator had been used to removed weathered material from the top of the large rock, thereby significantly reducing its size (**Photo 3** – compare with **Photo 3A** from the April 13, 2023 inspection).

**Explosives:** A ridge of non-rippable quartzite material, referred to as the “dragon back” (**Photo 4**) on the north end of the backfill area was discussed as providing a challenge to the approved grading plan. Site representatives stated options being considered included blasting or re-routing the north drainage channel. The DRMS reminded them that [if blasting is selected, technical revision to update the blasting plan will need to be submitted to the DRMS for approval prior to initiating blasting activities.](#)

**Financial Warranty:** Riverbend and Stantec presented a case for reducing the financial warranty given the amount of earthwork completed to date. The DRMS is receptive to a request for a surety reduction. We would need a map showing all areas where backfill has been completed, topsoil has been placed, and volumetric estimates for backfill and topsoil still needed to be placed. The DRMS explained that 100% of the mob/demob costs would need to be included in any surety reduction because if the financial warranty were to be forfeited, new earthmoving equipment would need to be mobilized to the site.

Related to the surety reduction, discussions ensued over keeping the office building, the Leica building (where the robotic survey instrument is housed), the paved road and the irrigation system. [Riverbend was advised that a technical revision to the permit would be required to modify the approved reclamation plan for these types of minor changes.](#)

**Fish and Wildlife:** No impact on wildlife was observed.

**Hydrologic Balance:** Riverbend and Stantec representatives indicated the French drain outlet had been flowing steadily. An opportunity for the DRMS to observe this firsthand did not occur.

**Roads:** Access roads did not appear to be a source of sediment that could be tracked offsite.

Reclamation Success: Topsoiling and seeding had been completed in most of the former shop area (see **Photo 5**).

Revegetation: Some conifers had been planted (see **Photo 6**) in the former shop area and drip irrigation systems were in place and functioning for the trees (see **Photo 7**). Evidence of the removal of the Myrtle Spurge (a List A noxious weed) was observed. However, some smaller Myrtle spurge plants were observed emerging near areas that had been cleared.

Sediment Control: Site representatives stated the large erosion gulley (head near the Leica building) first observed during the August 9, 2023 inspection will remain in place until grading is finished and stormwater runoff can be controlled as approved in the reclamation plan.

Signs and Markers: The permit sign was properly posted.

Topsoil: Topsoil continues to be placed as portions of backfill and grading reach final configuration.

Post Inspection Meeting: No problems or possible violations were observed during the inspection. Items of importance discussed during the site meeting are highlighted in blue underlined text above.

Please contact Tim Cazier (303)328-5229 or email at [tim.cazier@state.co.us](mailto:tim.cazier@state.co.us) if you have any questions regarding this report.

## **PHOTOGRAPHS**



Photo 1. Buttress backfill at ~7400 foot level (looking north).



**PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)**



Photo 2. D9 dozer constructing upper access road (looking north).



Photo 3. Rubblized/removed top portion of large boulder (upper south end of slide area, west side).



**PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)**



Photo 3A. Large boulder before upper removal (upper south end of slide area, west side; 4/13/23).



Photo 4. Non-rippable "dragon back" (north end, looking SW).



**PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)**



Photo 5. View of topsoiled and seeded former shop area (looking NE).



Photo 6. Newly planted conifers and typical irrigation system (former shop area).



**PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)**



Photo 7. Functioning irrigation system (note wet soil - circled).

**Inspection Contact Address**

Jerry Schnabel  
Riverbend Industries Inc.  
425 South Financial Place, Suite 3100  
Chicago, IL 60605

ec: DRMS file  
Michael Cunningham, DRMS  
Zach Trujillo, DRMS  
Jocelyn Carter, DRMS  
Jerry Schnabel, Riverbend  
David Deitemeyer, City of Colorado Springs  
Amy Titterington, USFS  
Paul Kos, Stantec