




**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> Soaring Eagle Gravel Pit	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1999-025	<b>MINERAL:</b> Sand and gravel	<b>COUNTY:</b> Mesa
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>WEATHER:</b> Clear	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> November 7, 2023	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 10:00
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Grand Junction Pipe & Supply Co.	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Jim Doody	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 112c - Construction Regular Operation	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Normal I&E Program	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> Complete Bond	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$242,488.00	
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> DRMS	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None	
<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Amy Yeldell	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> November 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>Y</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>Y</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>Y</u>	(BG) BACKFILL & GRADING----- <u>Y</u>	(EX) EXPLOSIVES----- <u>NA</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- <u>NA</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>Y</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>Y</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>NA</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>N</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>Y</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>Y</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>Y</u>	(OD) OFF-SITE DAMAGE----- <u>NA</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 Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety's (Division) normal monitoring program. The Soaring Eagle Gravel Pit is a 112c permitted site that includes a total of 112 acres. This site is located four miles southeast of Fruita, CO and is accessed from State Highway 340 (Broadway). Amy Yeldell of the Division conducted the inspection. Jim Doody of Grand Junction Pipe & Supply Co. represented the operator.

### **Acid And Toxic Materials:**

Fuel was located within secondary containment near the scale and office (Photo One). The landowner has batteries for their hot fence stored on the north side of the pit. The Operator is encouraged to work with the landowner to keep the site free of excess debris.

### **Backfilling and Grading:**

The north and east side of the pit has been recontoured to a 3H: 1V or less. The active highwalls are located along the south and west sides of the pond. Active high walls were generally near vertical and estimated to be 3000 LF and 20'H (Photos Two – Four). All highwalls can be cut/fill. Additionally, there are some misc. berms and general grading that remains on the pit (pond) floor that is visible even when the pit is inundated. The pond will have to be pumped to complete grading. The two main islands appear to be properly graded. There is a bench area along the northwest side of the pit that may be the wetlands bench. The area appears to be stripped but not yet mined. Some additional grading and smoothing out of stockpiles will be required if not consumed prior to final reclamation.

### **Explosives:**

Explosives are not used in conjunction with this mining operation.

### **Financial Warranty:**

The Division currently requires a financial warranty amount of \$242,488 for this site. The bond was last recalculated in 2018. 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 will be updating the reclamation cost estimate. If the current bond is found to be insufficient the Division will send a Notice of Surety Increase under a separate cover.

### **Fish and Wildlife:**

This pit is being used by wildlife in the areas with mature vegetation.

### **Hydrologic Balance:**

The pit was inundated at the time of the inspection. The pond surface area is approximately 55 acres minus any islands. There is also a sediment pond on the east side that has a capacity of approximately 5 surface acres.

Per the reclamation plan, inlet/outlets structures need to be constructed. These features have not been created to date.

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

The site was inactive at the time of the inspection. This site is only permitted to crush during the winter months. The remainder of the year hauling occurs out of the existing stockpiles. There are several large stockpiles located throughout the southwestern side of the pit (Photo Five). All stockpiles appear stable and well organized. Mining is progressing to the south and west.

Reclamation Success:

No areas were evaluated for final reclamation success.

Revegetation:

Approximately 100 acres have been affected by mining. The eastern half of the pit has largely self-reclaimed. There are lots of mature Russian Olive and Tamarisk trees on site. Because they are State listed Noxious-Weeds they must be controlled. Additionally it is unclear if the contoured slopes were ever seeded or if vegetation, primarily weeds have volunteered. Very little desirable vegetation was observed on the east side of the pit (Photos Six and Seven). The Operator is recommended to remove all noxious weeds prior to implementing reclamation per the approved Reclamation Plan. Then employ diligent noxious weed management. The Division notes that in 2005 under TR-1 a noxious weed management plan was approved. The Operator may wish to consult with Mesa County Weed and Pest to ensure that the plan is sufficient and implement/revise accordingly.

The reclamation plan calls for approx. 16 acres of wetland bench. Approximately 4 ac have been created to date.

Sediment Control:

No erosion or sedimentation was observed.

Support Facilities On-site:

There is an office trailer and in ground scale located near the pit entrance on the south side of the pit. A portion of the crusher was also located on site but it was not set up. Crushing is only permitted in the winter but hauling occurs year around.

Signs and Markers:

The mine identification sign and affected area boundary markers are in place and in compliance with Rule 3.1.12. A mine sign is posted at the permit boundary entrance. A locked gate is at the entrance to the access road off of Broadway. The access road is paved the entire length into the pit. The permit boundary is delineated by fences.

Topsoil:

Topsoil is stored in one main stockpile along the south side of the pond. Additional topsoil may also be available in the buffer berm between the pond and the river.

No problems or violations were noted during this inspection.

Responses to this inspection report should be directed to: Amy Yeldell at the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, Rm 215, 1001 E 62nd Ave, Denver Co 80216. Direct contact can be made by phone at 303-866-3567 Ext 8183 or via email at amy.yeldell@state.co.us

Inspection Contact Address

Jim Doody  
Grand Junction Pipe & Supply Co.  
556 Struthers Ave.  
Grand Junction, CO 81501

Enclosure

CC: Travis Marshall, Senior EPS, Grand Junction DRMS

**PHOTOGRAPHS**



Photo 1: Fuel in containment near scale.



Photo 2: SW active highwall





Photo 3: South highwall, future bench area



Photo 4: Pit overview misc. grading





Photo 5: Western stockpile area



Photo 6: Proper sloping with little desirable vegetation

