



## 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> Barnes Pit	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1991-075	<b>MINERAL:</b> Gravel	<b>COUNTY:</b> Kiowa
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>WEATHER:</b> Clear	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> October 5, 2023	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 10:00
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Kiowa County	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Allen Watts	<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> \$0.00
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> None	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None
<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Joel Renfro	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> November 28, 2023

**The following inspection topics were identified as having Problems or Possible Violations. OPERATORS SHOULD READ THE FOLLOWING PAGES CAREFULLY IN ORDER TO ASSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE PERMIT AND APPLICABLE RULES AND REGULATIONS. If a Possible Violation is indicated, you will be notified under separate cover as to when the Mined Land Reclamation Board will consider possible enforcement action.**

**INSPECTION TOPIC:** Signs & Markers

**PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION:** Problem: The current mine identification sign posted at the entrance of the mine site is weathered and the permit number is no longer readable. The sign also does not include a statement that the reclamation permit for the operation has been issued by the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board (CMLRB). This is a problem for failure to meet all requirements of a mine identification sign per Rule 3.1.12(1).

**CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:** The operator shall, at the entrance of the mine site post a sign, which shall be clearly visible from the access road, with a minimum size equaling one hundred and eighty-seven (187) square inches, such as eleven (11) inches in height and seventeen (17) inches in width, with appropriate font size, with the following: the name of the operator, the operation name, a statement that a reclamation permit for the operation has been issued by the CMLRB, and the permit number. The operator shall submit photo documentation that a proper sign has been posted by the corrective action due date.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE:** 12/28/23

## **OBSERVATIONS**

The Barnes Pit site was inspected by Joel Renfro with the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division/DRMS) as a part of the Division's routine monitoring program on October 5, 2023. This site was previously inspected on October 11, 2018. Allen Watts with Kiowa County was present during the inspection. The site is located approximately 16 miles southeast of Sheridan Lake, Colorado in Kowa County. Access to the site is from the west off of Co Rd 76. **Photos 1-14** taken during the inspection are included with this report.

This is a 112c operation permitted for 48.5 acres to mine sand and gravel for use in county road construction and maintenance. The permit boundaries are shown with T-posts in each corner. No material processing occurs on site. Mined material is directly hauled off-site for use or stored on the pit floor. The operation began mining from the northern edge of the permit area and has followed the southern edge of a natural drainage that runs through the site, mining southward.

The site was not active at the time of inspection, but the product stockpiles are hauled off frequently. The county is busy with road maintenance due to heavy precipitation this year. Approximately 19.5 acres have been disturbed. Within the past 2 years, a new pit has been dug out south of the original pit. The new pit is approximately 2 acres in area and 6 feet in depth. The operator plans to connect the pits eventually by mining down the highwall separating them. The highwall between the pits is approximately 20-25 feet in height, with nearly vertical slopes. Most of the northern and western edges of the pit have been backfilled and graded to 3H:1V slopes. Topsoil is stockpiled along the eastern edge of the pit.

The approved post-mining land use is rangeland. Reclamation of the site will include grading all disturbed slopes to 3H:1V or flatter, replacing 12-36 inches of topsoil on disturbed land, and seeding the land with a native grass seed mixture. Approximately 3 acres of the pit have been graded, topsoiled, and seeded. The reclamation so far appears to be successful with the early growth of native grass species. Some volunteer species found included Common Cocklebur, Pennsylvania Smartweed, and Prickly Pear. There appeared to be very few noxious weeds present at the time of inspection. The only noxious weed noted during the inspection was a few Chamomile plants found on the northern edge of the north pit. It appears that the operator is managing weeds in accordance with Rule 3.1.10(6).

Some erosional rills were observed in the northwest of the north pit, presumably from recent heavy storm events from this past year. The Division recommends stabilizing these rills before erosion gets worse and forms gullies.

The mine identification sign located at the site entrance has been weathered over time and the permit number is no longer readable. Also, the sign does not include all information required by Rule 3.1.12(1). This is cited as a problem in the report (see page 1). The operator will need to submit photo documentation that a proper sign has been posted by the corrective action due date.

This concludes the report.

*Any questions or comments regarding this inspection report should be forwarded to Joel Renfro at the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203, via telephone at (303) 866-3567 ext. 8147, or email at joel.renfro@state.co.us.*

## PHOTOGRAPHS



**Photo 1.** Mine entrance sign, looking east. The sign is weathered away and needs to be replaced.



**Photo 2.** Mine entrance, looking east.





**Photo 3.** Northern pit flood that has been graded, backfilled, and reseeded.



**Photo 4.** Vegetation cover in the northern portion of the mining pit, looking north.





**Photo 5.** Vegetation cover in the northern portion of the mining pit, looking north. Topsoil is stockpiled still on top of the ridge.



**Photo 6.** Mining pit highwall, standing on top of the revegetated area looking south.





**Photo 7.** Cocklebur was found throughout the revegetated area.



**Photo 8.** New mining pit south of the original pit, looking south.





**Photo 9.** New mining pit, looking northeast.



**Photo 10.** New mining pit, looking east.





**Photo 11.** The original mining pit to the right and the new mining pit to the left, are separated by a highwall that will be mined down eventually to connect the pits. Looking west.



**Photo 12.** Access road along the eastern edge of the mining pits, looking north. A topsoil stockpile is photographed above the road.





**Photo 13.** An unnamed drainage that runs east to west, located north of the permit boundary, looking northwest.



**Photo 14.** The original mining pit is seen above the access road, along with product stockpiles. A revegetated area is seen below the access road. Looking southeast.

### GENERAL INSPECTION TOPICS

The following list identifies the environmental and permit parameters inspected and gives a categorical evaluation of each

(AR) RECORDS----- <u>N</u>	(FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY----- <u>NA</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>Y</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>PB</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>N</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>N</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

#### Inspection Contact Address

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Enclosure

CC:  
Amy Eschberger, DRMS