



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.

MINE NAME: Rother Gravel Pit	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1985-173	MINERAL: Sand and gravel	COUNTY: Kiowa
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	WEATHER: Clear	INSP. DATE: October 5, 2023	INSP. TIME: 12:10
OPERATOR: Kiowa County	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Allen Watts	TYPE OF OPERATION: 112c - Construction Regular Operation	

REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE:	BOND AMOUNT: \$0.00
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None
INSPECTOR(S): Joel Renfro	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: 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: Problem: The sign 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 Rother Gravel Pit 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 14.5 miles northwest of Sheridan Lake, Colorado in Kowa County. Access to the site is from the east off of Co Rd 61, and the mine is located at the intersection of Co Rd 61 and Co Rd Z. **Photos 1-11** taken during the inspection are included with this report.

This is a 112c operation permitted for 113 acres to mine sand and gravel for use in county road construction and maintenance. The permit boundary for this site has an irregular shape, markers were checked to make sure they marked the boundary. Markers in the form of metal poles were used to designate corners and mining phase areas and appear effective. No material processing occurs on site. Mined material is directly hauled off-site for use or stored on the pit floor. Most of the disturbance is in the southeast portion of the site, where most of the mining is happening. Some areas within the permit area have been dug up to check for potential product to be mined. During the previous inspection, the operator was considering expanding the permit boundary to follow the sand and gravel northward but has decided to not go through with it and instead plans to mine northwestern within the permit boundary in the future.

The site was not active at the time of inspection, but the product stockpiles are stored on the pit floor and are hauled off frequently. The county is busy with road maintenance due to heavy precipitation this year. Approximately 26 acres are currently disturbed, primarily in the southeast corner of the site. The pit is approximately 20 feet deep and 15 acres in area. Overburden and topsoil are stockpiled along the eastern edge of the pit. An old pit approximately 6 acres in area, is located just west of the current pit. Overburden stockpiles are stored within that pit as well.

The approved post-mining land use is rangeland. Reclamation of the site will include grading all disturbed slopes to 3H:1V or flatter, replacing 8-13 inches of overburden and 4 inches of topsoil on disturbed land, and then seeding the land with native grass seed mixture. Approximately 4.6 acres are backfilled and seeded. Most of this seeding occurred within the last year. So far, the regrowth is looking good with good coverage of native grass species and no noxious weeds found at the time of inspection. The Division recommends that the operator continues to monitor growth and weeds. The old pit to the west appears to be well-vegetated with volunteer grass and shrub species.

There is no statement on the mine entrance sign that a reclamation permit for the operation has been issued by the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board (CMLRB), therefore 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 does not state "A reclamation permit for the operation has been issued by the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board (CMLRB)".



Photo 2. The access road into mine, looking east.



Photo 3. Mining pit, standing on top of the entrance access road, looking north.



Photo 4. Looking back at the mine entrance, standing on top of the area in reclamation, looking west.



Photo 5. Current vegetative regrowth.



Photo 6. Permit boundary marker located southeast of the site, looking northwest.



Photo 7. Permit boundary maker along the eastern edge of the site, looking north.



Photo 8. The mining pit from above, looking northwest.



Photo 9. The permit boundary marker is located in the northwest corner of the mining pit, looking north.



Photo 10. Permit boundary marker along the northern edge of the permit boundary, looking south, standing on Co Rd Z.



Photo 11. Permit boundary marker for the northeasternmost corner, looking south, standing on Co Rd Z.

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>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

Inspection Contact Address

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CC:

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