




**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> White River Pit	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-2008-070	<b>MINERAL:</b> Gravel	<b>COUNTY:</b> Rio Blanco
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Monitoring	<b>WEATHER:</b> Foggy, Snow	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> November 30, 2023	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 09:00
<b>OPERATOR:</b> OWL SWD Operating, LLC	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> None	<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> \$106,548.00	
<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> December 11, 2023	

**GENERAL INSPECTION TOPICS**

The following inspection topic(s) were identified as having a **Problem (PB)**, which includes correction actions and a deadline whereby the Operator must demonstrate compliance with the conditions of the Permit and the requirements of the Act and Rules. Failure to address the corrective actions by the deadline may cause the Division to escalate the Problem to a **Possible Violation (PV)** and schedule the issue for formal hearing before the Mined Land Reclamation Board (Board).

<b>(AR) RECORDS-----</b> <b>PB</b>	<b>(FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY-----</b> <b>Y</b>	<b>(RD) ROADS-----</b> <b>Y</b>
<b>(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE-----</b> <b>Y</b>	<b>(BG) BACKFILL &amp; GRADING-----</b> <b>Y</b>	<b>(EX) EXPLOSIVES-----</b> <b>NA</b>
<b>(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING----</b> <b>N</b>	<b>(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES-----</b> <b>Y</b>	<b>(TS) TOPSOIL-----</b> <b>Y</b>
<b>(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE--</b> <b>N</b>	<b>(FW) FISH &amp; WILDLIFE-----</b> <b>N</b>	<b>(RV) REVEGETATION----</b> <b>Y</b>
<b>(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS-----</b> <b>PB</b>	<b>(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN----</b> <b>N</b>	<b>(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP--</b> <b>NA</b>
<b>(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE-----</b> <b>N</b>	<b>(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION---</b> <b>Y</b>	<b>(ST) STIPULATIONS-----</b> <b>Y</b>
<b>(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS-----</b> <b>Y</b>	<b>(OD) OFF-SITE DAMAGE-----</b> <b>N</b>	

**Y = Inspected / N = Not inspected / NA = Not applicable to this operation / PB = Problem cited / PV = Possible violation cited**

### **CORRECTIVE ACTION(S)**

**INSPECTION TOPIC:** Availability Of Records

**PROBLEM:** The contact information the Division has on file is no longer valid. This is cited as an inspection problem. Per Rule 1.16 it is the Operators responsibility to notify the Division of any changes and keep contact information current.

**CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:** Please submit a contact change request via the e-permitting system or a written request to update your information by the corrective action date listed above in this report.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE:** 2/12/24

**INSPECTION TOPIC:** Signs & Markers

**PROBLEM:** The mine identification sign was not posted at the entrance of the mine site. This is a problem for failure to post a mine identification sign as required by Section 3.1.12(1) of the rule. 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, a statement that a reclamation permit for the operation has been issued by the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board; and the permit number.

**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 the following: the name of the operator, a statement that a reclamation permit for the operation has been issued by the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board; and the permit number. The operator shall submit photo documentation that a proper sign has been posted by the corrective action date.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE:** 2/12/24

### **OBSERVATIONS**

This inspection was conducted as part of the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety's (Division) normal monitoring program. The White River Pit is a 112c permitted site that consists of 14.27 acres. The site is located in Rio Blanco County and is located eighteen miles west of Meeker Colorado. Amy Yeldell of the Division conducted the inspection. No representative for OWL SWD Operating, LLC was resent for the inspection but they were notified ahead of time. The Inspection was at the operators request to evaluate overall site liability and progress towards reclamation.

**Acid And Toxic Materials:**

Adjacent to the mine site is a permitted CDPHE waste disposal facility. This area has been removed from the permit area via AR-1 in 2015.

No fuel or other hazardous materials are stored within the permitted area.

Backfilling and Grading:

Cells B and C are the active pit area. The slope between Cell B and Cell A is near vertical and approximately 300 LF at 15'H. Generally, most slopes within Cells B and C appear to be graded to a 3H: 1V with the exception of the southern tip of Cell B. The top 5' of material has been removed but the bench remains approximately 10' higher than the rest of the pit floor. Slopes with Misc. grading is primarily 1H: 1V and a combination of backfill and cut/fill.

Explosives:

Explosives are not used in conjunction with this mining operation.

Financial Warranty:

The Division currently requires a financial warranty amount of \$106,547.59 for this site. The bond was last recalculated with AM-1 in 2013. 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.

Hydrologic Balance:

This site is adjacent to the White River. No exposed groundwater on the pit floor was observed at the time of the inspection.

Other:

There was approximately 3" of snow cover and heavy fog during the inspection which limited site observations.

Cell D on AM-1 maps had been released however there appears to be some borrow activity in this area. Because this area is no longer permitted through DRMS material cannot be 'mined'. It was unclear if the Operator is constructing a new disposal pit or if other activities are taking place. The highwall is approximately 15'H by 100 yards long at a 1H: 1V slope. There is some misc. material stored on the pad area adjacent to the cut and a stockpile on the northeast side of Cell D.

Additionally, Cell E is no longer permitted so no future mining can occur in this area. The Division could not locate the marker between the Cell C and E. Please replace this marker and ensure that no disturbances take place outside of the currently approved permit boundary.

Roads:

The pit is located at the end of a dirt road with two locked gates. The road is within the permit boundary but slated to stay post reclamation to maintain access to the disposal facility.

Reclamation Success:

The site was not evaluated for reclamation success.

Revegetation:

Given the time of year and snow cover no plant cover could be evaluated. The Division was unable to determine what/if any areas have been reclaimed (seeded) to date. Some vegetation was observed but it may be volunteered. Evaluation of reclamation success and overall revegetation cover will need to happen later.

**Support Facilities On-site:**

Near the permit boundary entrance form CR5 is a mobile scale house trailer and scale. No other buildings were located within the permit.

**Signs and Markers:**

A sign was posted at the entrance to the mine off of CR 5 however the information on the map did not meet the requirements of Rule 3.1.12(1). Additional signs were posted near the CDPHE Waste disposal area, but no mining related signs were observed.. Please post a new mine sign at the permit entrance by the corrective action date. The permit boundary of the affected land was clearly delineated primarily by a wire fence pursuant to Rule 3.1.12(2).

**Topsoil:**

Given the snow cover the Division was unable to determine if any stockpiles of topsoil were located on site for final reclamation. The Division was also unable to determine if topsoil had been applied to the regarded slopes or if that reclamation task remains.

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**

David Grounds  
[David.Grounds@pilotwater.com](mailto:David.Grounds@pilotwater.com)

OWL SWD Operating, LLC  
8201 Preston Rd  
Dallas, TX 75225

Enclosure

CC:

Travis Marshall, Senior EPS, Grand Junction DRMS

**PHOTOGRAPHS**







Photo 3: Cell B overview



Photo 4: Misc. Grading in Cell C



