



# 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> Mitchell Mine No 1	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1986-025	<b>MINERAL:</b> Sand and gravel	<b>COUNTY:</b> El Paso
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Surety Release Inspection	<b>WEATHER:</b> Clear	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> November 29, 2023	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 10:15
<b>OPERATOR:</b> R E Monks Construction Co.	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Greigg Newlon	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 110c - Construction Limited Impact	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Surety Release Requested	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> None	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$11,500.00	
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> None	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None	
<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Timothy Cazier, P.E.	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> December 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>NA</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- <u>Y</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>NA</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>N</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>NA</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>Y</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>Y</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>NA</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 a surety release request (SL-3). The Permittee (R E Monks Construction Co.) was represented by Mr. Greigg Newlon during the inspection. The Mitchell Mine No. 1 Pit is accessed from Harrisville Rd off US Hwy 24 approximately 1.5 miles northeast of Calhan. The mine entrance is located approximately 1.75 miles off Hwy 24 on the north side of Harrisville Rd.

The recent requests for full surety releases have been denied due to a persistent gulley erosion issue. Mr. Newlon explained that despite RE Monks Construction not mining this site since the permit was transferred to them in 1988 (SO-1), they have repaired the gulley four times.

Vegetation (**Photos 1 and 2**) was observed to have become fairly well established despite the poor sandy soil, including some forbs as well as a variety of grasses.

The repaired gulley had eroded (**Photo 3**) since the most recent repair effort, but was less severe, likely due to the established vegetation reducing the amount of runoff. Any further repairs would damage a lot of the established vegetation. In addition, R E Monks evaluated diverting the runoff from above the reclaimed highwall to the west and was concerned the additional runoff might overwhelm the natural drainage there, resulting in sediment deposition on the neighboring property to the west. Mr. Newlon also stated the landowner of the permitted area (Mr. Garrett Balsick) was not concerned about the erosion gulley. It should be noted that in response to the first surety release request (SL-1) the DRMS received a letter from Mr. Balsick in July of 2020, stating the "as-is" condition at the time was acceptable to him.

The public comment period for this release request closed on November 28<sup>th</sup>, the day prior to this inspection. No comments have been received by the DRMS to date. As the gulley has been repaired multiple times and any further repair would require re-establishing vegetation in a difficult growing environment, the DRMS will recommend approval of the requested surety release.

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. Established vegetation on the pit floor and west highwall (looking NW).



Photo 2. Established vegetation above the crest (looking NE).

**PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)**



Photo 3. Persistent gulley at the time of this inspection (looking NE).

**Inspection Contact Address**

Greigg Newlon  
R E Monks Construction Co.  
P.O. Box 25579  
Colorado Springs, CO 80936

ec: DRMS File  
Greigg Newlon, R E Monks