

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:	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:	MINERAL:	COUNTY:
Houchin Gravel Pit	M-1980-249	Sand and gravel	El Paso
INSPECTION TYPE:	WEATHER: Clear	INSP. DATE:	INSP. TIME:
Monitoring		December 14, 2022	10:00
OPERATOR:	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:	TYPE OF OPERA	FION:
Charles W Houchin	Curt Houchin	110c - Construction Limited Impact	

REASON FOR INSPECTION:	BOND CALCULATION TYPE:	BOND AMOUNT:
Normal I&E Program	Complete Bond	\$3,500.00
DATE OF COMPLAINT:	POST INSP. CONTACTS:	JOINT INSP. AGENCY:
NA	None	None
INSPECTOR(S):	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:	SIGNATURE DATE:
Timothy Cazier, P.E.		January 23, 2024
Hunter Ridley	Thims all C-	

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: Availability Of Records

PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION No. 1: Problem: Failure to maintain legal right of entry per Rule 6.3.7 as the original Permittee is deceased.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: The permit must be transferred via the Division's Succession of Operators Application which includes proof of legal right to enter and conduct mining and reclamation operations by the permittee/operator.

CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE: 3/25/24

INSPECTION TOPIC: Financial Warranty

PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION No. 2: Problem: The financial warranty is not adequate to reclaim the site in accordance with the approved reclamation plan. This is a failure to maintain the proper financial warranty amount to complete reclamation of the affected lands pursuant to C.R.S. 34-32.5-117(4)(b) of the Act. **CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:** The operator shall submit adequate financial warranty, as determined by the Division. The Division will be sending a separate surety increase notice to the operator regarding the increase of the financial warranty. The operator will have 60 days from the date on the surety increase notice to post the additional financial warranty.

CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE: 3/25/24

INSPECTION TOPIC: Gen. Compliance with Mine Plan

PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION No. 3: Problem: The current mine plan needs to be updated and clarified pursuant to C.R.S. 34-32.5-112 (1)(c)(VI). The operator must provide sufficient information to describe or identify how the operator intends to conduct the operation.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: The operator shall submit a Technical Revision, with the required \$216 revision fee, to update and clarify the current approved mine plan to reflect existing and proposed activities by the corrective action date.

CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE: 3/25/24

OBSERVATIONS

This inspection was conducted as part of the Division's regular monitoring program. The Permittee (Charles W Houchin) was represented during the inspection by Mr. Curt Houchin. The Houchin Gravel Pit is accessed from Hwy 24 approximately 8.5 miles southeast of Woodland Park. This is a 110c sand & gravel mine. It was operating at the time of the inspection.

<u>Availability of Records:</u> Annual reports are current, having been filed through February 2023, stating the last mining activity was less than 180 days from the date of the report. The previous inspection was on April 1, 2019. The approved post-mine land use is primarily industrial/commercial (two acres based on the preliminary adequacy response dated 1/22/1981). There are no open infractions. Both the surface and minerals are privately owned.

During the inspection, Curt Houchin confirmed the Permittee, Charles W. Houchin had passed away in 2010. As such, the permit is required to be transferred. <u>The need to transfer the permit is cited as Problem No. 1</u> <u>on p. 1 of this report</u>. It would be best to transfer the permit to Houchin Incorporated, where Curt Houchin is the registered agent under the Colorado Secretary of State records.

<u>Acid And Toxic Materials:</u> An above ground diesel fuel tank was observed and had adequate secondary containment (see **Photo 1**).

<u>Backfilling and Grading</u>: The approved final grading plan is for the site to be benched at 2H:1V. A bench was observed approximately midway up the active mine area (see **Photo 2**). Mr. Houchin indicated he was considering a revised grading plan. I informed him a technical revision would be required to modify the final grading plan. Sufficient backfill material appeared to be available.

Excess Spoil and Dev. Waste: No overburden piles were observed.

<u>Financial Warranty</u>: The \$3,500 bond held by the DRMS was last updated in 1993. Mr. Houchin was provided a copy of the Division's revised bond estimate (for \$7,177) during the inspection and encouraged to review it. No comments have been received to date. <u>The insufficient bond is cited as Problem No. 2 on p. 1 of this</u> report. This inspection report is accompanying a surety increase letter.

Fish and Wildlife: No impact to wildlife was observed.

Hydrologic Balance: No standing water was observed in the pit and no exposed groundwater was observed.

<u>Gen. Compliance with Mine Plan:</u> The operation appeared to be in compliance with the approved mine plan. However, there are apparent anomalies in approved permit. The approved mine plan describes approximately three acres of disturbance, including up to two acres of industrial/commercial area that will be leveled with the approximate elevation of the adjacent Hwy 24; and 1.8 acres of sloped area that is to be excavated as part of the mining operation. Based on the map submitted with the original permit application, the excavation portion appears to be limited to about 410 feet from the SW boundary near Hwy 24. This map also includes a topsoil stockpile location on the upgradient side of the excavated area, which is considered affected area. Mr. Houchin confirmed the existence of the topsoil stockpile in this area during a telephone conversation on January 22, 2024. The permit clearly indicates post-mine land use for the level area near Hwy 24 is to be commercial/industrial but does not address the post-mine land use for the remainder of the permit area; other than it requires grading, topsoil placement and seeding. During the January 22nd telephone call, Mr. Houchin stated the property is zoned for residential development with an El Paso County permit for mining underneath it. He envisioned the post-mine land use might be residential development for the sloped area as that would be consistent with the county zoning.

Google Earth was used to measure the disturbed area, which was about 3 acres, based on older 2019 imagery. Roughly two acres of disturbance is on the sloped portion of the mine, the other acre is relatively flat and at the same level as the adjacent Hwy 24 and is considered commercial/industrial.

There is a strip of sloped, unvegetated area along the NW boundary outside the permit boundary. A review of USGS Quad topography (Cascade Quadrangle, 1950) suggests a ridge existed in this area prior to mining. An additional review of Google Earth historic images indicates no change in disturbance to this strip since 1999 (see attached **Post-Inspection Map**). Furthermore, there is an undated letter from the El Paso County Land Use Department in the original 1980 Application stating, "extraction of gravel from this site began in the 1930's and has continued to date." As such, the DRMS has determined this area along the NW side is considered pre-law mine disturbance. However, it should not be redisturbed as part of the current operation. If the Operator wants or needs to disturb this strip on the NW side, an amendment to the permit will be required prior to any disturbance.

A Technical Revision (TR) is needed to clarify the mining plan, reclamation plan and update the mine map. <u>The</u> <u>need for this TR is cited as Problem No. 3 on p. 2 of this report</u>. The TR should include the following:

- A post-mine land use for the sloped area that is not slated for industrial/commercial use (residential?).
- A clear delineation between the post-mine industrial/commercial area and the other post-mine land use (residential?) on a revised map.
- Show all current topsoil stockpiles on a revised map.
- The current leveled industrial/commercial area is approximately 1 acre. If this might not be expanded to the two acres permitted, how will it change the reclamation plan.
- If the grading plan is desired to be modified, include these changes in the TR.

<u>Off-site Damage</u>: The operation appeared to be confined to the permit boundary, based on Google Earth review and site observations.

<u>Processing Waste:</u> No processing waste was observed. Mr. Houchin does import offsite material for processing. A large stockpile of offsite material was observed during this inspection (see **Photo 3**).

<u>Roads:</u> No problems were observed relative to haul and access roads.

<u>Right of Entry:</u> The land is owned by Carolyn E. Houchin who is the mother of the Operator, Curt Houchin. However, Mr. Houchin confirmed via telephone on January 22, 2024, there is no lease or other formal document confirming the legal right of entry. <u>The lack of a formal legal right of entry is related to the need</u> to transfer the permit and is included in the Problem No. 1 citation on p. 1 of this report.

<u>Reclamation Success:</u> No reclamation has been initiated.

<u>Revegetation</u>: No revegetation had been initiated. A minor amount of knapweed was observed. As it was not prevalent at the time of the inspection, it was not cited as a problem. However, the Operator should implement a weed control program to reduce the spread of knapweed on site.

<u>Sediment Control</u>: Only minor erosion rills were observed and only above the upper bench (see **Photo 2**) No erosion problems leading to offsite impacts were observed and no BMPs were needed at the time of the inspection.

Support Facilities On-site: A screen plant and loader were observed on site (see Photo 4).

<u>Signs and Markers:</u> The permit sign was properly posted (see **Photo 5**) and boundary marker position data was collected using a handheld Trimble Juno 3B GPS unit (see **Photo 6**). A post-inspection map showing GPS collected corners is attached to this report. It should be noted that the SW corner location was estimated based on a fixed offset from a fence post, provided by Mr. Houchin onsite.

<u>Permit Stipulations:</u> The approval of TR-1 requires final bench and highwall designs be submitted as a technical revision, along with documentation of supporting geotechnical observations. The designs must be approved by the Division prior to topsoiling and revegetation operations on the benches. <u>Mr. Houchin indicated he would like to change the grading plan</u>. The Division apprised him a technical revision would be required to do so.

Storm Water MGT Plan: No oil or fuel spills observed. Stormwater drains to the pit and infiltrates.

<u>Topsoil:</u> All salvaged growth media was stripped many years ago and was stockpiled on the east side (see **Photo 7**), as the site's disturbed footprint has not changed in quite some time. Mr. Houchin also indicated some growth media has been stored offsite for use in reclamation.

Structures: No new structures were observed within 200 feet of the affected area.

<u>Post Inspection Meeting</u>: The updated bond estimate was provided to Mr. Houchin during the inspection with the understanding that a surety increase would follow if he did not find any errors. No Problems were cited during the inspection. However, additional file review related to the Permittee being a deceased individual (as opposed to the company) and trying to understand the relationship to the boundary corner locations collected with a GPS unit during the inspection and the approved permit map resulted in the problems cited in this report. Mr. Houchin was contacted via telephone on January 22, 2024 to discuss these problems.

Contact information:

Tim Cazier 303-328-5229 (cell) or email at <u>tim.cazier@state.co.us</u> Hunter Ridley 720-868-7757 (cell) or email at <u>hunter.ridley@state.co.us</u> Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety Addresses:

Physical:1313 Sherman Street, Room 215(USPS only)Denver, CO 80203

Mailing: DRMS Room 215, 1001 E 62nd Ave (FedEx, UPS Denver, CO 80216 and USPS)

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1. Above ground diesel fuel tank with secondary containment.

PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)



Photo 2. Mine bench (note minor erosion rills above bench).



Photo 3. Stockpile of offsite material (looking WSW).

PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)



Photo 4. Screen and loader (looking SW, side boundary marker circled).



Photo 5. Permit sign.

PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)



Photo 6. Typical permit boundary marker (SE corner).



Photo 7. Topsoil stockpile (above crest of excavation).

GENERAL INSPECTION TOPICS

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

(AR) RECORDS <u>PB</u>	(FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY PB	(RD) ROADS <u>Y</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE <u>Y</u>	(BG) BACKFILL & GRADING <u>Y</u>	(EX) EXPLOSIVES <u>Y</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING <u>Y</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES <u>Y</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL <u>Y</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>PB</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>Y</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION Y	(ST) STIPULATIONS <u>Y</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS <u>Y</u>	(OD) OFF-SITE DAMAGE <u>Y</u>	

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

Inspection Contact Address Curt Houchin Charles W Houchin P.O. Box 85 Green Mountain Falls, CO 80819

Attachments: Post Inspection Map Updated Reclamation Cost Estimate

ec: Hunter Ridley, DRMS DRMS file

M-1980-249 Houchin Gravel Pit Post Inspection Map

Stellite imagery from 10/6/2019 GPS points collected 12/14/2022

MI SC 249 Corner - SW

E

Comer-SW 🗖

Google

Lar

Legend

GPS Marker

- GPS
 - GPS Marker
 - M-80-249 2019 Comm/Industrial Area (1 Ac)
- M-80-249 Corner SW
- M-80-249 GPS Boundary
- M-80-249 Sloped Disturbed Area (2019 2.1 Ac.)

toto Valla .

200 ft

Natural or Pre-Existing Disturbance

Updated Reclamation Cost Estimate

COST SUMMARY WORK

Т	ask description:	Cost Summary Sh	neet				
Site:	Houchin Gravel Pit	Perm	nit Action:	2022 Update		Permit/Jo	ob#:M1980249
PF	ROJECT IDENTIFIC	ATION					
	Task #: 000	State:	Colorado		1	Abbreviation:	None
	Date: 12/13/2022	County:	El Paso			Filename:	M249-000
	User: TC1						
	Agency or organiz	zation name:	MS				
TA	ASK LIST (DIRECT	COSTS)					
Task				Form	Fleet	Task	
002	Description			Used DOZER	Size	Hours 6.57	Cost \$768
002	Replace Topsoil Reveg 2 acres			REVEGE	1	4.00	\$3,299
003	Mob/Demob			MOBILIZE	1	1.90	\$1,329
				1			
				<u>SUBT(</u>	DTALS:	12.4	7 \$5,396
	DIRECT COSTS /ERHEAD AND PROFI Liability insuran Performance bo Job superintende Pro	ce: 2.02 nd: 1.05 ent: 6.23	CONTI	RACT AMOUNT		$Total = \boxed{9}$ $Total = \boxed{9}$ $Total = \boxed{9}$ $L O \& P = \boxed{9}$	\$109 \$57 \$468 \$540 \$1,173 \$6,569
LE	GAL - ENGINEERING	- PROJECT MANA	GEMENT:				
	Financial warranty pro			\$0	_		\$0
	Engineering work an	1		4.25	_		\$279
	Reclamation manag	ement and/or admin	istration:	5.00	_		\$328
		CONTIN	GENCY:	0.00		Total =	\$0
				TOTAL I	NDIRECT	T COST =	\$1,781
		TO	OTAL BO	ND AMOUNT (direct + ir	ndirect) =	\$7,177

Page 1 of 2

BULLDOZER WORK

Houchin Gravel Pit	Per	mit Action:	2022 Update	Permit/Jol	b#: <u>M1980249</u>
PROJECT IDENTIFI	CATION				
Task #: 002 Date: 12/13/2022 User: TC1	2 State: 2 County:	Colorado El Paso		Abbreviation: Filename:	None M249-002
Agency or organ	nization name:	MS			
IOURLY EQUIPME	NT COST				
	t D5N LGP - 5P		_		
Horsepower: 96			_		
	wer Angle Tilt		_		
Attachment: NA			_		
	er day		_		
Data Source: (Cl	RG)		_		
Cost Breakdown:					
			Utilization %		
Ownership Cost/Hour:		\$41.98	NA		
Operating Cost/Hour:		\$34.75	100		
Ripper own. Cost/Hour:		\$0.00	NA		
Ripper op. Cost/Hour:		\$0.00	0		
Operator Cost/Hour:		\$40.04	NA		
-		+	1471		
Total unit Cost/Hour:	\$116.77				
Total Fleet Cost/Hour:	\$116.77				
MATERIAL QUANT	ITIES				
Initial Volume: 1,61	2				
Swell factor: 1.11					
	-5 98 LCY				
Loose volume: _1,79	OLU I				
Source of estimated volu	ume: 6 inches of	over 2 acres			
Source of estimated swe	ll Cat Hand	book			
factor:					
HOURLY PRODUCT	ION				
Average push distance:	135 feet				
Unadjusted hourly	232.1 LCY/	hr			
production:					
	• .• =- •		1. 1.0		
Materials consistency de	escription: Consol	idated stockp	oile 1.0		
	20.0/				
Average push	-30 %				
gradient:	7 (00 0				
Average site altitude:	7,600 feet				
A	A 100 11 /				
Material weight:	2,100 lbs/LCY				

Weight description:	Earth - Loam				
b Condition Correction	Factor		Source		

Task # 002

Operator Skill:	0.750	(AVG.)
Material consistency:	1.000	(CAT HB)
Dozing method:	1.200	(SLOT)
Visibility:	1.000	(AVG.)
Job efficiency:	0.830	(1 SHIFT/DAY)
Spoil pile:	0.900	(SSD-FC)
Push gradient:	1.601	(CAT HB)
Altitude:	1.000	(CAT HB)
Material Weight:	1.095	(CAT HB)
Blade type:	1.000	(PAT)

Net correction: 1.1786

Adjusted unit production:	273.55 LCY/hr
Adjusted fleet production:	273.55 LCY/hr

JOB TIME AND COST

Fleet size:	1 Dozer(s)
Unit cost:	\$0.427/LCY

10tal job time.	6.57 Hours	
Total job cost:	\$768	
Total job cost:	\$768	

REVEGETATION WORK

Т	Task descrip	tion:	Reveg 2 acres				
Site: Houchin Gravel Pit		Per	rmit Action:	2022 Update	Permit/Jol	o#: M1980249	
<u>P</u>]	ROJECT	IDENTIFIC	ATION State:	Colorado		Abbreviation:	None
	Date: User:	12/13/2022 TC1	County:	El Paso		Filename:	M249-003
	Age	ency or organiz	zation name:	RMS			

FERTILIZING

Materials

Description	Units / Acre	Unit	Cost / Unit	Cost /Acre
Sodium nitrate, 16-0-0	50.00	pound	\$0.78	\$39.00
Superphosphate, 0-20-0 with 12% S	50.00	pound	\$0.26	\$13.00
			Total Fautilian	
			Total Fertilizer Materials	
			Cost/Acre	\$52.00

Application

Description	Cost /Acre
Truck whirlwind spreader (MEANS 32 01 90.13 0140)	\$16.55
Total Fertilizer Application Cost/Acre	\$16.55

TILLING

Description	Cost /Acre
	\$
Total Tilling Cost/Acre	\$0.00

SEEDING

Seed Mix	Rate – PLS LBS / Acre	Seeds per SQ. FT	Cost /Acre
Little Bluestem - Pastura	2.00	11.94	\$26.97
Sideoats Grama - Vaughn	4.00	13.13	\$33.50
Smooth Brome - Manchar	3.00	9.99	\$9.98
Pubescent Wheatgrass - Luna	2.00	4.13	\$6.80
Western Wheatgrass - Arriba	4.00	10.10	\$26.00
Totals Seed Mix	15.00	49.29	\$103.24

Application

Description Drill Seeding (DRMS Survey Cost)		Cost /Acre \$232.00
Dim Seeding (Dicivis Survey Cost)	Total Seed Application Cost/Acre	

MULCHING and MISCELLANEOUS

Materials

Description	Units / Acre	Unit	Cost / Unit	Cost /Acre
Hay, delivered {MEANS 31 25 14.16 1200}	2.00	TON	\$421.36	\$842.72
Total Mulch Materials Cost/Acre				\$842.72

Application

Description		Cost /Acre
Crimping, with tractor {DMG survey data}		\$73.00
	Total Mulch Application Cost/Acre	\$73.00

NURSERY STOCK PLANTING

Common Name	No / Acre	Type and Size	Planting Cost	Fertilizer Pellet Cost	Cost /Acre
					\$
Totals Nursery Stock Cost / Acre			\$0.00		

JOB TIME AND COST

	No. of Acres:	2	Cost /Acre:	\$1,319.51
Estimate	ed Failure Rate:	25%	Cost /Acre*:	\$1,319.51
*Selected Replanti	ng Work Items:	FERTILIZING,TI	LLING,SEEDING,	
		MULCHING		
Initial Job Cost:	\$2,639.02			
Reseeding Job Cost:	\$659.76			
Total Job Cost:	\$3,299			
Job Hours:	4.00			

EQUIPMENT MOBILIZATION/DEMOBILIZATION

Task description:	Mo	b/Demob					
: <u>Houchin Grave</u>	l Pit	Permit	Action: <u>2022</u>	Update]	Permit/Job#:	M1980249
PROJECT IDEN	TIFICATI	<u>ON</u>					
Task #: 004 Date: 12/12 User: TC1	3/2022		olorado Paso				lone 1249-004
Agency or	organization	n name: DRMS					
EQUIPMENT TI	RANSPOR	<u>T RIG COST</u>					
		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			Shift ba Cost Data Sour	rce: CRC	er day 3 Data
Truck	Tractor Desc	ription: GENE	RIC ON-HIGH		CK TRACTO (2ND HALF,		ESEL POWERED,
Truck	Trailer Desc	ription: G	ENERIC FOLD	OING GOO		ROP DECK E	QUIPMENT
<u>Cost Breakdown:</u>							
Available Rig Ca		0-25 Tons	26-50 Tons		Tons		
Ownership (\$15.25	\$23.06		7.58		
Operating (\$25.26	\$30.83		1.41		
	Cost/Hour:	\$27.71	\$27.71		7.71		
	Cost/Hour:	\$0.00	\$20.22		0.22		
Total Unit (Cost/Hour:	\$68.22	\$101.82	\$13	36.92		
NON ROADABL	E EQUIPN	MENT:					
Machine Description	Weight/ Unit (TONS)	Owner ship Cost/hr/ unit	Haul Rig Cost/hr/uni t	Fleet Size	Haul Trip Cost/hr/ fleet	Return Trij Cost/hr/ fle	bet Cost/ fleet
Cat D5N LGP - 5P	11.47	\$41.98	\$68.22	1	\$110.20	\$68.22	\$250.00
Drill/Broadcast Seeder with	25.00	\$6.25	\$68.22	1	\$74.47	\$68.22	\$250.00
Tractor							

ROADABLE EQUIPMENT:

Machine Description	Total Cost/hr/ unit	Fleet Size	Haul Trip Cost/hr/ fleet	Return Trip Cost/hr/ fleet
		Subtotals:	\$0.00	\$0.00

EQUIPMENT HAUL DISTANCE and Time

Nearest Major City or Town within project area region: Total one-way travel distance: Average Travel Speed:	WOODLAND PARK 9.00 40.00	miles mph
Total Non-Roadable Mob/Demob Cost * '* two round trips with haul rig:	\$1,329.17	
Total Roadable Mob/Demob Cost ** ** one round trip, no haul rig:	\$0.00	_

Transportation Cycle Time:

Haul Time (Hours): Return Time (Hours): Loading Time (Hours):	Non- Roadable Equipment 0.23 0.23 0.25	Roadable Equipment 0.23 0.23 NA
Loading Time (Hours):	0.25	NA
Unloading Time (Hours):	0.25	NA
Subtotals:	0.95	0.45

JOB TIME AND COST

Total job time: **1.90** Hours

Total job cost: \$1,329